

Kinnock urged to defend hard left councils

By Richard Evans and Philip Webster

Mr Neil Kinnock's long-running battle with the militant left flared up again yesterday when he launched moves to discipline the new leader of Liverpool City Council.

The party leader faced the wrath of hard-left council leaders, who accused him of failing to defend them against the Tories "loony left" campaign.



Mr Kinnock: Impassioned speech to the NEC.

Mr Kinnock, who was backed by 21 votes to six, told the executive in an impassioned speech: "Let us not forget what was done to John Hamilton. That has not been forgotten or forgiven in Liverpool."

group leader and Mr Tony Hood, the secretary.

The hard-left Mr Byrne, who became leader in a coup which deposed the long-serving Mr John Hamilton, infuriated Mr Kinnock by continuing to recognize the expelled Mr Derek Hutton as deputy leader.

Yesterday, against strong opposition from the left, he moved that the cases of the two men be referred to the party.

The onslaught from Mr Grant comes only weeks after Mr Kinnock publicly denounced the "zealotry" of some left wing council leaders, which he said was providing ammunition to Labour's opponents.

The Conservatives have successfully mounted a prolonged campaign against the activities of certain "loony left" councils, which senior Labour MPs acknowledge has damaged their own electoral hopes.

But in his article, Mr Grant insists that councils like Haringey, Brent, Lambeth, Hackney and Manchester are only implementing Labour policy.

"We face hysterical attacks because we act on party policy. We've collected all the facts in reply to the Tories and the Press. We've given them to Neil Kinnock, to Jack Straw (Labour's local government spokesman) and to John Cunningham (shadow environment secretary)."

"But they have simply refused to use them to defend us. They are doing a tremendous disservice to Labour councils and the whole party."

Mr Grant, who has been continued on page 20, col 1



Mrs Thatcher yesterday led Julie McGarr and Martin Grove, followed by Jennifer Grant, across the road in Hyde Park, London, to promote road safety. The children were winners in a painting competition for European Road Safety Year. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Reagan due for prostate surgery

From Michael Binyon Washington

President Reagan will go into hospital next month for a minor operation on an enlarged prostate gland, the White House said yesterday.

He will enter Bethesda Naval Hospital on January 4 for tests to follow up on his operation last year for colon cancer.

The next day surgeons will perform the prostate operation under a local spinal anaesthetic. He will be awake during the entire 40-minute procedure and remain in hospital for about four days.

The operation, called a trans-urethral resection of the prostate, is to alleviate mild recurring urinary discomfort. It is not a full removal of the gland, a major operation that requires lengthy rest and recuperation afterwards.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the operation was common in men over 50. The prostate is a small organ about the size of a walnut, located next to the bladder and surrounding the urethra, the urinary canal. An enlarged prostate can make urination difficult, and the operation involves the removal of small amounts of tissue from the urinary tract to enlarge it.

Mr Reagan, at 75 the oldest President in US history, underwent a similar operation and a complete bladder examination in 1967. No trace of cancer was found then, and Mr Speakes said that the prostate operation was not related to Mr Reagan's cancer surgery last year.

The operation will be performed by Dr David Utz of the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York, with Dr J. R. Biers, a family friend, assisting.

There are no plans to invoke the constitutional provision temporarily handing over presidential power to the Vice President, Mr George Bush, as Mr Reagan will at no time be unconscious.

Meanwhile, the condition of Mr William Casey, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency who suffered two minor seizures on Monday, is said to be comfortable and stable. He is undergoing tests at a hospital in Washington.

28,000 more postmen wanted

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

The Post Office is to employ an additional 28,000 postmen and women in the next five years to cope with the increasing use being made of the nation's postal service.

The new jobs, of which about a quarter will be part-time, were announced yesterday despite the disclosure of a big, but expected, reduction in profits to £21 million for the six months ending October 1. For the year as a whole, a profit of more than £100 million is expected.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director, said that the extra staff would be needed in delivery and sorting operations.

At the same time he announced that the Post Office was to extend second deliveries, currently available only in towns and cities, to 400,000 addresses in the semi-rural outskirts of urban areas where there had been recent housing developments.

In what was described as "the biggest ever campaign aimed specifically at delivery performance", about 20,000 new recruits will be required. The additional 8,000 will be needed for the Post Office's drive to reduce overtime.

Sir Ronald Dearing, the chairman, said that Post Office workers last year worked 55 overtime man hours of overtime, 15 per cent of the total working time.

The Post Office is now experiencing the biggest growth in letter and parcel sending in its history. A record 46 million letters a day were handled by the Post Office in the six months to October and employment grew by 3,000.

The Post Office now employs 183,614 people of which 120,000 are postmen and sorting staff.

This Christmas, which has seen the Post Office offer for sale 300 million discounted stamps, is proving to be the most successful for the Royal Mail.

In the first 15 days of December, 910 million items were posted, 115 million on December 15 alone. This was swollen by the 4.5 million share certificates sent out to new shareholders in privatized British Gas.

Post Office profits, page 21

Tomorrow Tales of the head



This is a marble head of Archilles, bought by the Getty Museum for \$2.5 million. Or is it a Roman copy, worth \$60,000? Or even a fake, worth \$1,000? A look at an art controversy.

On Saturday Don't miss the special Christmas Jumbo Crossword, with five £50 prizes.

Portfolio Gold

There is £8,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition as there was no winner yesterday. Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, 20.

TIMES BUSINESS

Land deal British Land is raising £92 million to buy Euston Centre Investments, part owner of the Euston Centre in London, and to finance two other projects. Page 21

Oil deadlock Iran called for Iraq's suspension from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries as talks on curbing production remained deadlocked over Iraq's output quota. Page 21

TIMES SPORT

Race with time Harold Cadmore, skipper of White Crusader, Britain's failed America's Cup challenger, maintains that time was not on the side of his campaign. Page 36

Table with 2 columns: News, Sport, etc. and 2 rows of items.

Labour in Wapping jailing row

By Our Political Staff

Mr Neil Kinnock was under attack last night after supporting a move calling for the release of a print union activist imprisoned for assaulting a policeman outside the News International plant at Wapping.

Michael Hicks, aged 49, an executive member of Sogat 82, received a 12-month sentence, with eight months suspended, at Southwark Crown Court this month after being branded a "disgrace" by the judge.

Labour's national executive passed without a vote yesterday a motion condemning the arrest and imprisonment of Hicks.

Last night Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, was tabling a motion calling on Mr Kinnock to state his position on the rule of law.

"Wapping is one of the outstanding disgraces of modern trade unionism, involving as it has the continuing practice of preventing other trade unionists from going to work."

"If a party which aspires to support the rule of law, it is surely not fit to govern."

Cabinet to defuse Awacs row

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

Ministers hope to enter the Christmas recess with the controversy over the new airborne early warning system for the RAF largely buried.

After a Cabinet discussion this morning Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to tell the Commons this afternoon that the Government has plumped for the Boeing Airborne Warning and Control System.

It is widely expected that the Speaker will accede to any demand for an immediate debate, which would take place tonight. The move would not be unwelcome to the Government which believes that it would allow the sting to be taken out of the issue.

The Cabinet's Overseas and Defence Policy Committee met last night under Mrs Margaret Thatcher's chairmanship to consider the two bids. The paper prepared by the Ministry of Defence recommending Awacs was said by one minister to be "devastatingly convincing" so the committee is believed to have recommended it.

Shooting range killings

By Stewart Tessler Crime Reporter

A police and military inquiry began yesterday into a shooting incident on an Army range in which a young private pumped bullets into a corporal and then turned his gun on himself.

Private Nicholas Burnup, aged 17, from Brighton, died immediately. Corporal David John Bumstead, aged 25, from St Ives, Cambridgeshire, was wounded by four shots and later died at a hospital in Ashford, Kent.

A spokesman for Kent police said they were not looking for anyone in connection with the deaths. An Army spokesman said there was no question of an accidental discharge or any doubts about breaches of safety rules on the ranges.

The shooting took place yesterday at the high security ranges at Hythe, Kent, as men from the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Regiment, were being trained to use 9mm Browning pistols. The ranges are used by troops facing possible duties in Northern Ireland.

Corporal Bumstead, a member of the Royal Pioneer Corps and married for five months, worked permanently at the range.

The day's training for the battalion, which arrived last Sunday for an eight-day course, was underway. Soldiers were carrying out target practice on an elementary range.

The corporal was in his hot when other troops in the area heard shots. They saw the private emerge from the hut and shoot himself in the head.

Miner's wife gets world's first triple transplant surgery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Mrs Davina Thompson, a Yorkshire miner's wife, was recovering in a Cambridge hospital yesterday after becoming the world's first patient to receive a new heart, lungs and liver.

The unique triple transplant, which involved a team of 15 surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses, took seven hours to perform. It required the co-operation of three hospitals and the collaboration of two eminent transplant surgeons in the operating theatre at Papworth Hospital.

Mr Thompson, aged 35, of Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, had been suffering for several years from a serious liver complaint, and had been assessed as a transplant candidate.

She then developed severe pulmonary hypertension, which meant that to perform the liver graft first would probably have caused her heart to fail.

Mrs Thompson, who has a daughter, Stephanie, aged nine, last month joined the waiting list at Papworth for a new heart and lungs. The decision to carry out the combined operations was made after suitable donor organs, all from the same unidentified patient, were made available on Tuesday.

She was alerted by a radio bleeper provided by the hospital. The donor organs were flown to Papworth by helicopter from the John Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Mr Thompson and her husband, Steve, were flown from Leeds-Bradford airport to the United States Air Force base at Alconbury, which was opened especially for the flight. They were then driven 10 miles to Papworth.

The surgery began soon after midnight. It first involved the exchange of the heart and lungs by Mr John Wallwork, Papworth's leading transplant specialist. The liver graft was then performed by Professor Sir Roy Calne, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, a world expert in the field. About 250 such grafts have been carried out there since 1968.

Mrs Celia Wright, transplant co-ordinator at Addenbrooke's, said: "For such a young woman, the patient did not have a very high quality of life. Whenever we do transplants of more than one organ, the organs come from the same donor. This helps overcome the risks of rejection."

Continued on page 20, col 5

Reply demand in MI5 case

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

The Government is expected to demand the right of reply in the MI5 court case in Australia after accusations by Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, and Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, had been guilty of lies and dishonesty.

In his final submission, Mr Malcolm Turnbull produced a devastating array of allegations against the Government over its handling of the case involving the book, *Spycatcher*, written by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer. Mr Turnbull accused Sir Michael of "the worst form of dishonesty" by allowing another man, Sir Robert, to lie on his behalf and then to do nothing to correct it.

He was referring to an answer given by Sir Robert on the second day of the hearing in the New South Wales Supreme Court when he said that it was the Attorney-General alone who had decided against stopping the publication of the book, *Their Trade is Treachery*, by Mr Chapman Pincher in 1981, which had been written in collaboration with Mr Wright.

The court case is expected to finish on tomorrow or Monday Sydney hearing, page 7

Meningitis blamed as boy dies

By Jill Sherman

A boy aged seven, from Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, has died from suspected meningitis and another child, aged two, from the same village, also with suspected meningitis, is now in the intensive care unit of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, in Gloucester.

Wayne Smith was admitted to hospital on Monday suffering from what his parents thought was a strained ligament. His doctor had sent him for an x-ray, but when he arrived at the hospital he was diagnosed as having a virus and admitted. He died on Tuesday night.

"We just can't believe it," his father, Mr Terry Smith, said. He was such an active child. He had taken part in the recent tests for meningitis and got nothing back, but we will now be retested for it."

Last month a screening project started in Stonehouse in an attempt to trace bow the meningococcal meningitis has been spreading in the area. Interim results identified 70 carriers of the more serious B15 strain and 700 other carriers - a result which reflects normal levels throughout the country.



Please Sir - Can I be excused Homework as I've got a hangover?

The Government is considering a new crackdown on under age drinking. Page 5

Liberals' end of term report on Tories

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

The Liberal Party is to launch personal attacks on Conservative MPs in 50 key seats by ridiculing their voting records. The Liberal whip's office is sending its parliamentary candidates in these constituencies draft press releases in the form of "end-of-term reports" which chart how each Tory voted in 10 important divisions during the year, comments on their performance, and a grade from A to D for "Dunce". The candidates are expected to extract as much publicity as possible for these assessments.

In the case of Mr Derek Conway, for example, the release shows that the Shrewsbury MP voted for the Government on all 10 occasions - Star Wars, rural policy, Libya, nuclear energy, economic policy, defence, water privatization, the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland, no increased financial support to pensioners during the winter and staying out of the European Monetary System. The release, headlined "Lo-

Champion took drugs

New York (AP) - Tim Witherspoon, who lost the World Boxing Association heavyweight title on a first-round knockout to James "Bonescrusher" Smith last Friday, failed drug tests both before and after the fight, Mr Jose Torres, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, said last night.

The tests revealed marijuana in Witherspoon's system and Mr Torres said that he would take action against the former champion next week. After Witherspoon won the title last January in Atlanta, a post-fight test revealed marijuana in his system and the WBA fined him \$25,000. Details, page 36

Advertisement for Christmas Presents featuring Bibendum Glasses. Includes text: 'Christmas Presents', '18 Piece Boxed Set of Bibendum Glasses', 'Save at least 10% on loose prices of 6 red wine, 6 white wine and 6 champagne glasses - ideal for the festive season.', 'Available from 52 stores or by mail order (0491 35511) while stocks last.', 'And don't forget our 1986/7 catalogue has a £5 voucher which you can use until Christmas Eve when spending £50 at: habitat'

NEWS SUMMARY

Lawson curbs tax cut hopes

Mr Nigel Lawson poured cold water yesterday on rising hopes of big tax cuts in the Budget, despite the buoyancy in government revenue and lower than expected borrowing.

Right to sue upheld

Former soldier Melvyn Pearce yesterday won the right to sue the Government for damages after being exposed to radiation during nuclear weapon tests.

The Ministry of Defence, which claimed exemption under the 1947 Crown Proceedings Act, plans to challenge yesterday's High Court decision in the House of Lords.

Pet birds killed

Children were in tears yesterday after arriving at school and finding their pets had been slaughtered.

Lloyds' £3m writ

A writ for more than £3 million has been served on Lloyds Bank after its handling of the Lincoln-based Lumiere group of companies which took part in a multi-million pound export fraud.

IBA job for Bowe

Miss Colette Bowe, the Civil Servant at the centre of the Westland affair, was named yesterday as the next controller of information services at the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Increase in kangaroo cull

Sydney (AP) - The Australian Government yesterday proposed increasing to 130,000 the number of kangaroos to be culled next year to prevent farmers and ranchers from killing the animals.

Village built for war

A village complete with 32 houses, a public house, church, and two farms is to be built by the Army on a Welsh mountain at a cost of £3 million, but no one will live there.

Appeal to keep MI5 book ban

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, asked a High Court judge yesterday to continue the ban on a book by former MI5 agent, Joan Miller, although he has lost his battle to stop its publication in the Irish Republic.

Manpower Services adverts Accusaton of propaganda

Advertisements placed by the Manpower Services Commission have been reported to the Advertising Standards Authority as poorly disguised political propaganda and a breach of its code.

National guidelines promised to curb inquiries

The Government yesterday undertook to issue national policy guidelines on such issues as energy, transport and urban development to reduce the length and expense of public inquiries.

Victory for Speelman in chess final

Bernard Speelman yesterday won the British Chess Championship for the second year in succession, beating Murray Chandler with precise endplay in the second of two tie-break games.

Compulsory history lessons sought

The Government will be urged tomorrow to guarantee the compulsory study of British social history by secondary school children up till the age of 16.

France are required to examine fundamentals such as the French revolution and the leading role of France in the establishment of the Common Market and we should not be ashamed to follow suit.

Prostitutes wipe out fines with stay in court

Prostitutes are being allowed to write off hundreds of pounds in fines merely by sitting at the back of a courtroom for a few hours as a way of tackling the problem of defaulters.



Mr Michael Winner, the film director and chairman of the Police Memorial Trust, laying a floral tribute yesterday to the Harrods bomb victims (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Bomb victims remembered

Police held a tribute for three colleagues yesterday on the third anniversary of their deaths in the Harrods bomb blast.

Hindley asked for second day on the moors

Myra Hindley twice pleaded with a Home Office official to be allowed a second day on the Yorkshire moors to help guide police to the site of other unexcavated graves, her solicitor said yesterday.

BR accused of secrecy in line closure plans

British Rail responded yesterday to accusations of secrecy by refusing to publish its financial case for closing the 72-mile Settle to Carlisle line.

Manpower Services adverts

He said the slogan "Reform our Social Security. We've got our act together" used in the advertisement was wholly misleading and omitted "reforms" that ended benefit for industrial disemployment below 14 per cent, abolished reduced rate unemployment and sickness benefit, and maternity allowance for new claimants, and extended the voluntary unemployment disqualification to 13 weeks.

Manpower Services adverts

He said the slogan "Reform our Social Security. We've got our act together" used in the advertisement was wholly misleading and omitted "reforms" that ended benefit for industrial disemployment below 14 per cent, abolished reduced rate unemployment and sickness benefit, and maternity allowance for new claimants, and extended the voluntary unemployment disqualification to 13 weeks.

Catholic job bias in Ulster denied

The Fair Employment Agency in Northern Ireland yesterday rejected allegations of job discrimination in favour of Roman Catholics.

The report said that in the past there had been little Protestant unemployment in most parts of the province, and that Protestants had little difficulty in obtaining work.

The agency criticized the attitude of some management which, it said, remained somewhat hostile to what it believed was interference from a statutory body.

Sogat poll result is delayed

Leaders of Sogat '82, whose members are involved in a dispute with News International, will not know until after Christmas whether their 205,000 members have voted for a 58p weekly levy to save their union from bankruptcy.

Miss Dean and the rest of her executive are disappointed that the majority of Sogat members in the provinces are disobeying union instructions and distributing The Times and other national newspapers published by News International.

Coronet the on smear t... MURRAY CHANDLER

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Most nurses 'unable to deal with heart arrest'

By Jill Sherman

Most trained nurses would be unable to give basic first aid to a heart attack victim in the vital first few minutes, according to a team of researchers from a London hospital.

They claim that patients' lives could be unnecessarily at risk as nurses are often the only staff present when a cardiac arrest occurs.

Saving the life of someone who has had a heart attack can depend on simple resuscitation techniques, such as mouth to mouth, in the first four minutes before the high technology "crash" team of doctors arrive.

But a study undertaken at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, north-west London, showed that one of the nurses performed basic life support adequately, according to national standards, and more than half were completely ineffective.

Details of the study to be presented today at the British Psychological Society's conference also show that most of the nurses overestimated their skills.

The more senior nurses and those who had dealt with more arrests were more confident about their ability but performed no better than junior nurses.

The researchers, clinical psychologists Dr Teresa Marteau, and Dr Marie Johnston, have called for obligatory regular retraining for all nurses once they qualify.

"The first four minutes after a cardiac arrest are vital," Dr Marteau said.

"If you have an arrest in hospital a nurse is the first on the scene. Unless we have effective nurses it puts into question the overall use of resources of the crash team."

Any skills that nurses had learnt during training had evidently since deteriorated, she said.

Dr Marteau said she was concerned that nurses who were confident that they could perform resuscitation would be the least likely to seek training.

"It is these people who we found were least expert at the technique," she said.

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday emphasized that all nurses were given eight hours of basic resuscitation training by a cardiologist or specialist nurse.

"Pretty stringent training is applied so that all nurses when they finish training should be able to resuscitate a cardiac arrest patient," Miss Frances Pickersgill, the college's assistant adviser in nursing practice, said.

But she admitted that the training might not be effective when it came to coping with a heart attack for the first time.

"When faced with your first cardiac patient you're not sure whether they've fainted or whether they are dead. The brain goes into reverse gear. It is a very emotive situation and our training may not be sophisticated enough to cope with it."

Miss Pickersgill said she was not really surprised by the findings, but added that previous surveys had shown that junior doctors were also bad at these basic skills.

"I agree that there should be obligatory training for post-qualified nursing staff but I think this should also apply to all staff including doctors, porters and cleaners."



Couple in US deaths hunt jailed for fraud

An American heiress and her boy friend, accused of murdering her parents in a black magic ritual, were jailed yesterday for 12 months each after admitting fraud offences.

Elizabeth Haysom, aged 23, and Jens Soering, aged 30, son of a West German diplomat, admitted opening bank accounts in false names to obtain illegally more than £6,500.

Scotland Yard extradition squad detectives were at Kingston Crown Court, Surrey, with a warrant for the couple's arrest, accusing them of the murder of Haysom's parents.

The bodies of Mr Derek Haysom, aged 71, a steel magnate, and Mrs Nancy Haysom, aged 53, were found with multiple stab wounds in their home in Lynchburg, Virginia, in March last year.

Soering and Haysom, who were students at Virginia University, have been indicted by a United States grand jury on charges of first degree murder. Soering is also accused of capital murder, the killing of more than one person. If found guilty, he could face the death penalty.

The couple were jailed after admitting two charges of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception between January 9 and April 30 this year, and one charge of going equipped to cheat.

Mr Michael Lawson, for the prosecution, said the couple had opened bank accounts in Bath and Canterbury on their arrival in Britain, using forged identification cards and passports made from false documents bought in Thailand.

In bed and breakfast accommodation rented by the couple in Paddington, west London, detectives found 10 sets of Canadian identification cards and driving licences, rubber stamps, wigs and moustaches.

Mr Nicholas Vallios, counsel for the defence, said the couple came to Britain, where banks are vulnerable to fraud, after failing to get work in Europe or Thailand.

Judge Oddie ordered that £2,250 in cash found on the pair be paid in compensation to the Lloyds and Midland banks involved, and Marks & Spencer.

Haysom and Soering, who have been in custody for seven and a half months, will be re-arrested on their release to face extradition proceedings at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London.

Christmas 'misery for low paid'

By Jill Sherman

Christmas for low income families is a nightmare rather than a celebration and results in big debts, the Child Poverty Action Group says today.

Traditional turkey and Christmas pudding are an unaffordable luxury for many families, who sit down to sausage and chips instead.

The average household will spend £375 on Christmas this year, the group says. This will include £100 on presents for each child aged between 8-14, but low income families will have to spend an entire week's social security benefit to buy one of this year's most popular toys - a £60 talking teddy.

"Families can only meet the cost of Christmas by going into debt, getting further into debt," the report says.

The charity recommends a special Christmas bonus for families living on social security and raising the supplementary benefit scales for children and increasing child benefit.

The group also claims that television advertising for the latest toys in the weeks before Christmas puts added pressure on parents. It says that this type of advertising should be investigated and, if necessary, regulated.

Aids research and education Women face quiz over sex

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The sexual behaviour of more than 1,000 young women is to be studied to provide clues for better public education about Aids.

The Department of Health has been asked to fund the study and is considering the proposals put forward by a research team.

The researchers believe that women hold the key to influencing men's attitudes about limiting the spread of the disease.

The women involved in the planned study would be recruited in London at family planning centres, through general practitioners, and at clinics for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

They would be asked about their sex lives, the number of partners they have had, and their attitudes towards the use of condoms.

Dr John Green, head of the psychology department at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, which has the largest number of Aids cases of any hospital in Britain, will lead the study.

"We know very little about heterosexual behaviour in this country. We want to learn more about sexually active women because that information will help us shape future Aids education projects."

Dr Green, who is also director of the Aids Counselling Training Unit, set up by the DHSS, said: "We want to discover how much condoms are used and to examine the ability of women to influence men to use this form of contraception."

Most people who know they are carrying the Aids virus, as well as those who have developed the disease, are giving up sexual relations for fear of passing it on, according to other research published today.

The findings, by Miss Heather George, a senior clinical psychologist at St Mary's, are being reported to a British Psychological Society conference in London.

She interviewed 150 people, including about 50 homosexual men who are infected, 50 who have developed the disease and 50 who have not been tested for infection but are close to someone with symptoms.

70 years and still howling

By Kenneth Gosling

The "Grand Howl" goes out at full volume from four Cub Scouts from Greenwich as they help to celebrate the movement's seventieth anniversary at the Caxton Hall in London.

The four, from the left, are Andrew Cook, aged nine, Kevin Roberts and Andrew Stackey, both aged 10, and Robert Russell, aged nine, present day successors to the Wolf Cubs and their "Dyb Dyb Dyb" chant which went out years ago.

Special occasions are probably celebrated just as they were reported in *The Scouter* of February, 1916, ("a gorge in the afternoon") although much else has changed. Now Cub Scouts rally behind such causes as bird boxes for old people or knitted blankets for overseas relief. But the magic is still strong. In the last census, in 1984, there were 280,843 Cub Scouts in Britain. There would be thousands more but for the lack of adult leaders.

Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts in 1966, the Cub Scouts' golden jubilee year. Scoutmasters and Cubmasters are now known as Scout Leaders and Cub Scout Leaders. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Girl can stay with her father

A girl aged 12 yesterday won the right to continue living with her father.

In October, a judge ordered that the girl, whose parents are divorced, should live with her mother, although she had pleaded to remain with her father, whom the judge described as "insensitive".

But after hearing of the girl's repeated pleas to remain with her father, two judges at the Court of Appeal in London ruled that she need not go to live with her mother after all. They imposed a three-month ban on the mother seeing her, as a "cooling off" period.

Lord Justice May, sitting with Mr Justice Lincoln, said the Watford County Court judge who ordered that the girl should go to live with her mother and her sister, aged 10, was wrong.

He said it was obvious from the girl's pleas to remain with her father that she was "implyly opposed" to the idea.

Allowing an appeal by the girl's father against the ruling, and awarding custody, care and control of the girl to the father, the judge said the county court judge had failed to take into account the strength of the girl's feelings.

The judge urged the parents, who were in court, to "stop the battle" they were engaged in.

"They must do all they can to help the children and to work gradually to build up the very necessary bridges within the family."

Killer gets two life sentences

A man who killed the woman with whom he was living and their social worker because he was afraid he was going to lose his children was given two life sentences at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Brian Wildman, aged 38, of Woodgate Valley, Birmingham, who admitted murdering Miss Julie Harrison, with whom he was living, and Miss Frances Bettridge, a social worker, was told by Mr Justice Henry: "You took two innocent lives with these terrible crimes."

Wildman had separated from Miss Harrison, aged 30, earlier this year and under care proceedings she was prevented from staying with him with their daughter, aged 12.

But when she spent weekends with Wildman their social worker, Miss Bettridge, decided to speak to them about it.

When Miss Harrison arrived for the meeting Wildman threw a belt around her neck and tried to strangle her. She broke free but was prevented from escaping by Wildman who stabbed her and then strangled her before he drowned her in the bath.

When Miss Bettridge, aged 27, arrived Wildman said his wife was out there. He stabbed her and strangled her.

His plans to kill himself and his family by burning the house down failed when he heard the screams of his twin sons, aged five.

Alleged petrol bomber in photographs

Photographs taken by a press photographer during last year's riots in Birmingham led to the identification of an alleged petrol bomber, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said that James Hazell, aged 31, had also been seen in the riot area by police officers who knew him shortly before the photographs were taken.

He told Birmingham Crown Court that a photograph of a man holding a bottle containing a liquid, with a fuse already lit, appeared on the front page of many national newspapers the next day.

Moments later the petrol bomb was thrown into a building supplies shop, causing a serious fire which resulted in £20,000 in damage.

Mr Barker said it was the crown's case that Mr Hazell of Merryhill Drive, Winslow Green, Birmingham, who has denied arson, was the petrol bomber in the photograph.

He said the incident occurred shortly after a visit to the area by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, after serious rioting and looting in which two people were killed.

The case continues today.

Higgins case adjourned

A case involving Alex Higgins, the former world champion snooker player, was opened and adjourned until January 16 at Preston Magistrates' Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

Mr Higgins, aged 37, of Mottram St Andrew, near Prestbury, Cheshire, who did not appear in court, is charged with assaulting Mr Paul Hatherall at Preston on November 24, and damaging a door.

Coroner throws doubt on smear test policy

A coroner has criticized "an extraordinary state of affairs" in which women under the age of 35 are not given cervical smear tests because general practitioners do not receive payment.

The National Health Service is reviewing its policy, but believes women younger than 35 are at less risk of contracting cervical cancer.

Dr Paul Kaupman, the Westminster coroner, said at a resumed inquest yesterday that he had "grave doubts" whether that was so.

He recorded a verdict of misadventure on Miss Jane McKenna, aged 31, a knitwear designer, of Vanlough Hill, Greenwich, south-east London, who died from kidney failure on November 6 after an accidental toxic drug overdose was given at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea.

Miss McKenna had a cervical smear test at Lewisham hospital on October 6, 1982, which was negative. Terminal cancer was diagnosed eight months after a hysterectomy in February 1986.

Plea to sell Ripper's house

A judge at Bradford County Court was asked yesterday to order the sale of the former Bradford home of Peter Sutcliffe, known as the Yorkshire Ripper.

The application on behalf of Mr Roy Garthwaite, the trustee in Sutcliffe's bankruptcy, has been made so that part of the proceeds can be used to pay compensation of £25,722 awarded to two surviving victims and the mother of a girl aged 16 killed by him.

Mrs Marilyn Moore was awarded £10,500 damages. Mrs Maureen Long £8,500 and Mrs Irene MacDonald, the mother of Jayne MacDonald, £6,722. So far they have received nothing.

Sutcliffe's share in the detached house in Garden Lane, Heaton, was transferred to his wife, Sonia, when she was legally separated from him. She still lives there.

But Mr Garthwaite said that no one representing the creditors of Sutcliffe was present in court when Mrs Sutcliffe successfully applied in May 1983 for an order for the transfer of her husband's interest in the property to her.

The effect of the order was to remove the only asset available to his creditors.

Mr Garthwaite submitted that Sutcliffe was bankrupt from February 1983 and that the judge who made the order for the transfer did not have jurisdiction.

In an affidavit read to the court, Mrs Sutcliffe denied that she had acted improperly in seeking to have her husband's interest in the house transferred to her. She claimed that she had contributed three times as much as her husband towards the purchase of the house.

The case continues today.

WOOLWICH 1986

ASSETS UP 15.3% TO £7,827m	HOME LOANS UP 22% TO £1,829m <small>lent to over 62,000 families</small>	NET RECEIPTS FROM INVESTORS £591m	APPROVAL GIVEN TO PROVIDE NEW SERVICES
SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE	SERVICE

Facing the future with confidence

Points made by the Chairman, Mr Alan McIntock, C.A., in his address to the 139th Annual General Meeting held on 16th December 1986.

Results. 1986 was yet another year in which the Society broke new ground in terms of the volume of its business. This was a considerable achievement in the context of the ever-increasing competition in the marketplace and the additional pressures imposed by the need to prepare for new legislation.

Assets increased during the year by £1,036 million to £7,827 million. At the year end the Society had 2.76 million investment accounts and 363,000 borrowers. Lending increased by 22% helping more than 62,000 families to buy their own homes.

Increase in Reserves. At the end of the year the Society's surplus was £65.5 million, taking the general reserve to £319.4 million, equivalent to 4.08% of total assets, the highest ratio recorded by the Woolwich in the last quarter century. This is the most reassuring of the figures, not only because of our prime objective of enhancing the Society's financial strength and security, but also because of the need for a higher capital base on which to build new services for the future.

Building Societies Act 1986. The Chairman welcomed the Building Societies Act and the opportunities it affords for societies to compete more effectively. He said that the Society did not propose to use all the available powers immediately, but pointed out that it now had the ability and the flexibility to respond to the demands of customers and the marketplace. He reassured members that no new powers would change the face of the Woolwich irrevocably. The greater part of the business would continue to be concentrated in the traditional saving and mortgage lending services, that had been provided so successfully for so long.

The Future - The Chairman concluded: "These are, indeed, changing and challenging times. However, at the Woolwich we look forward to the new era with the greatest confidence in the Society's financial and business strength, and with a determination to distinguish the Woolwich from other institutions by the excellence of the services we offer."

The Special Resolution proposing the adoption of new powers under the Building Societies Act 1986 was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Copies of the Annual Report and the full text of the Chairman's Address are available from the Secretary, Equitable House, London SE18 6AB.

WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY

December 17 1986

PARLIAMENT

Farm ministers 'have taken an historic step'

The agreement reached yesterday in Brussels by the EEC Council of Ministers...

income of the average size dairy farm in the UK...

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C) said that Britain imported £1.2 billion of dairy products...

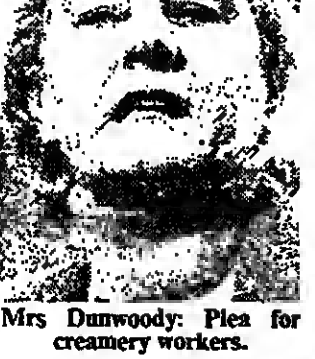


Mr Gummer: Dairy farm 'adjustments'

Changes were also made to prevent excessive recourse to intervention...

The council had agreed to the British request to devaluation in its green pound of six points for beef...

Mr Gummer said that the Government had always fought for consumer interests...

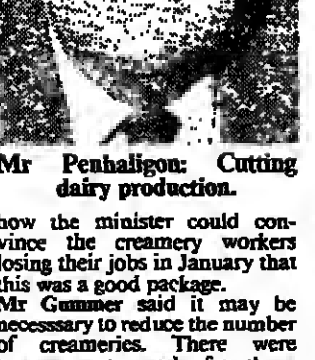


Mrs Danwoody: Pleas for creamery workers

The changes, particularly in the green pound, were serious problems of adjustment for many individual farmers...

Mr Brynmor John, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said Mr Gummer had announced measures which, if they worked, would take a sizeable step in reducing surpluses in the dairy sector...

Mr Nicholas Bateman (Wolverhampton South West, C) asked the minister to be generous with the truth in describing a reduction in the cost of the CAP...



Mr Penhaligon: Cutting dairy production

Mr Gummer said that it was thought that dairy farmers would have to go out of business. That turned out not to be the case...

how the minister could convince the creamery workers losing their jobs in January that this was a good package...

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) said there had been little mention of the consumer today...

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) asked whether the minister had explained to the Community that the height of his ambition was that Britain should out dairy production by the same percentage as those member states in phenomenal surplus...

Mr Nicholas Winter (Macclesfield, C) said he had strongly opposed and deplored the way this Government had treated dairy farmers here when they did not contribute year in and year out to the surplus in Europe...

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that as vigorous steps were to be taken to reduce the intervention store, now was the time, particularly with Christmas coming up, for the food in the beef and butter stores to be given free to pensioners...

Mr Gummer said some of the butter had been in intervention for a long time and Mr Banks would not want that distributed to pensioners...



Mr Conal Gregory, Tory MP for York, recommending shoppers in London yesterday to buy safe British toys and to boycott potentially dangerous imported ones (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

British leadership of EEC 'great success'

The most effective pattern of decision during the British presidency of the EEC in the second half of 1986 had been the record of more decisions taken and adopted on the internal market than ever before...

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stratford, Lab) said that the Government had always fought for consumer interests...

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the Government had always fought for consumer interests...

Agreement on tobacco imminent

Mr Richard Tracey, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions that he was nearing the end of detailed negotiations with the tobacco industry on sport sponsorship...

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) said that sport had benefited enormously from the tobacco industry and urged Mr Tracey to remember in further negotiations that that money would not be easily replaced...

Mr Tracey: This is one of the points we have considered very carefully in our negotiations with the tobacco companies...

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribblesdale, C) said cigarette companies had done an amazing job in supporting the great game of cricket...

Million tenant owners

In the financial years 1983-84 to 1985-86, respectively, 117,000, 89,000 and 80,000 tenants bought their council homes...

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands, C) asked what percentage of total council-house stock was sold to sitting tenants...

Irish Dail request 'is misconceived'

The Dail resolution calling for the closure of the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant was misconceived...

Mr John Taylor (Strangford, OUP) asked if the minister would publish a report which showed that Sellafield had had no observable impact on the incidence of childhood leukaemia along the Irish east coast since 1977...

City tin crisis

Excessive government secrecy over last year's tin crisis had jeopardized the reputation of a major City institution...

Mr Justice Millett is expected to give judgement during the next term which begins on January 12...

Decision on illegal rates defended

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Local Government, fended off criticism during Commons questions of the statement made yesterday by Mr Nicholas Ridley...

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) asked, in the light of the farcical statement on local government finance yesterday, how the rate-capped authorities were going to be dealt with...

Mr John Taylor (Solihull, C) said the rating environment would be considerably improved if the local authorities would confine themselves to their statutory responsibilities...

Mr John Watts (Slough, C) said that as it had proved necessary to find legislative time to block a few loopholes in the Act, it might make sense to make use of that time to scrap the existing unsatisfactory and unfair system...

Mr Boyson said that Mr Ridley had made clear yesterday that at the end of October, when he received the information, had come to the House and said: 'We have a problem and do not know what to do about it'...

Graffiti bring problems

Sexist and racial criteria are being used by some local authorities in deciding whether to remove graffiti...

Mr John Heddie (Mid-Staffordshire, C) said that some Labour local authorities were refusing to remove such graffiti unless it was sexist or racist...

More marine reserves likely

Five more marine nature reserves are being prepared to follow the first which has been set up around Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel...

Parliament today (2.30): Supplementary and social security benefit orders and regulations...

Alliance manifesto

Nuclear defence policy issue settled

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

The Alliance parties yesterday formally completed the agonizing business of burying their differences over nuclear weapons by releasing the text of the statement that will form the core of their defence policy at the next election...



Mr Owen (left) and Mr Steel



No further approval needed

It says: "In government we would maintain with whatever necessary modernization and minimum nuclear deterrent until it can be negotiated away, as part of the global arm negotiation process, in return for worthwhile concessions by the USSR which would enhance British and European security. This is in contrast to Labour's 'give it away' strategy..."

by the Government, would be transferred to the conventional defence budget. The statement, which forms part of the final version of Partnership for Progress, the basis of the Alliance's coming manifesto, was agreed by the joint policy committee of the two parties on Tuesday night...

Mr Owen said that they did not have access to all the necessary information to make a choice now and that there was also a "timing problem" because any conclusions reached today could well be overtaken by events...

Secrecy 'put jobs in peril'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Excessive government secrecy over last year's tin crisis had jeopardized the reputation of a major City institution and the Bank of England...

both it and the Bank had a duty to act. Surprisingly, however, the committee concedes the right of the Bank and the Government to withhold from select committees papers passing between departments and their confidential advisers...

"Vague warnings" were given to the dealers by the Bank of England, and the LME should have taken more notice of those, the report says...

It had also been wrong to sign an inherently flawed Sixth International Tin Agreement partly to avoid worsening relations with tin-producing countries such as Malaysia...

Students to help U

Decision on illegal rates defended

Mr Rhodes... Minister for... Decision on illegal rates defended

Illegal drinking by teenagers may lead to new crackdown

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Government is considering a new crackdown against under age drinking after a nationwide survey disclosed yesterday that 40 per cent of those aged 16 were drinking illegally in public houses.

With only one in 10 youngsters remaining teetotal by the age of 17, education chiefs are also being asked if children should be given extra advice at school about the dangers of drink.

The Adolescent Drinking Survey, conducted among nearly 5,000 youngsters aged 13 to 17, shows that 82 per cent of boys and 77 per cent of girls in England and Wales had their first "proper drink" by the age of 13.

ter of those aged 14, rising to 40 per cent of those aged 16, admitted drinking illegally in public houses.

The inquiry was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security and two separate surveys were carried out, in England and Wales and in Scotland, to provide a national picture of young people's drinking habits.

In England and Wales, 29 per cent of 13-year-old boys and 11 per cent of girls said they drank at least weekly.

Weekly drinking rose to 52 per cent of the boys and 37 per cent of the girls among 15-year-olds, and to 61 per cent of boys and 54 per cent of girls among 17-year-olds.

About one third of boys and up to a quarter of girls aged 13 said they had been "very drunk" at least once in the

previous year. Drunkenness had affected more than half the older boys.

A quarter of those involved in such heavy drinking reported having got into arguments or fights as a result, or having upset their parents.

One in 10 of the boys committed acts of vandalism or attracted the attention of the police after drinking too much.

Half of the youngest children interviewed drank less than four standard alcohol units a week, one unit being equivalent to half a pint of beer, a glass of wine or a single measure of spirits.

Half of the boys aged 15 who drank at all consumed more than the equivalent of five pints of beer a week. One in six consumed about two pints a day.

Mrs Edwin Currie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, said her colleagues at the Department of Education and the Home Office would "consider whether any action on alcohol education in schools and on enforcement of the licensing laws is necessary in the light of this report".

She added: "We recognize that alcohol used wisely and within the law is not harmful but there is a need to safeguard our young people against the dangers of alcohol misuse."

Adolescent Drinking (Stationery Office, £6.80).



Doony, a bear badger, and his rescuer, Mrs Ruth Murray, who has campaigned for better protection for badgers for more than 30 years.

Doony is one of 51 badgers at Mrs Murray's sanctuary at Laughter Hole Farm, Yelverton, Devon. He was found and suffering from hypothermia.

Mrs Murray, aged 61, has been celebrating her latest campaign victory, a move by the Ministry of Agriculture to

have proof before badgers suspected of spreading bovine tuberculosis are passed.

According to Mrs Murray, badgers are not naturally secretive, nocturnal animals. "They have been driven underground by years of persecution. My animals like nothing better than to lie in the sun."

The animals Mrs Murray cares for are always returned to the wild if possible. Meanwhile, they stay at her field study centre. (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Huge rise in crown courts' workload

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A huge rise in the number of cases committed for trial in the crown courts of the northern circuit is shown in figures published by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday.

The total rose from 6,713 in 1979 to 11,672 in 1985, according to Your Court, the department's journal.

In the county courts the number of proceedings formally started with the lodging of a "plaint" rose by almost one third from 215,759 to 309,266 in 1985; and matrimonial petitions filed rose from 21,739 to 24,893 during the same period.

But the figures also show a drop in the average waiting times.

For defendants in custody, the average waiting time fell from 11.3 weeks in 1979 to 8.7 weeks in 1985; and the waiting time for defendants on bail fell from 17.5 to 11.4 weeks during the same period.

Young forced into part-time labour

By JBI Sherman

Teenagers have become the day labourers and casual workers of the 1980s, the youth employment organization, Youthaid, says today.

A survey published by the charity disputes government claims that the dramatic rise in part-time work is helping women who want more flexible working hours.

"Most of the new part-time workers are teenagers unable to get full-time work," the report says.

The survey shows that there has been a 250 per cent increase since 1979 in the number of teenagers in part-time work, from 116,000 to 407,000, compared with a 2.5 per cent increase in part-time adult women workers.

The number of teenagers in full-time work had fallen from 1.8 million to 1.2 million

during the same period. By 1985, one in four teenagers could find only a part-time job, and six out of every 10 part-time workers was under the age of 20.

Nearly half the teenagers in part-time work have jobs that are temporary.

"When politicians talk about flexible labour markets, they are really talking about unemployed teenagers having to take part-time, short term, unprotected work," Mr Paul Lewis, director of Youthaid, said.

Part-time work had not grown significantly for adult women, "but among teenagers it has grown enormously, and it is contributing to the poverty, homelessness and lack of independence that some young people are now experiencing," Mr Lewis said.

Race rules complaint is upheld

A Daily Express report singled out seven Rastafarians from more than 110 people arrested at a rock festival as a result of a sub-editing mishap, but the Press Council says today its effect conflicted with the council's guidelines on mentioning race.

Mr R Borzello, of Islington, north London, complained that the paper reported that seven defendants were Rastafarians while not giving the religion of 103 others arrested.

The newspaper reported that 110 people on drugs charges at the Reading Festival. Seven Rastafarians were due to appear in court that day.

Mr Borzello suggested that by reporting the seven defendants were Rastafarians, the newspaper identified them as black.

The managing editor of the paper, Mr Struan Coupar, said that 110 people had been due to appear in court, 103 of them on charges of possessing drugs and the seven Rastafarians on charges of supplying them.

Mr Coupar supplied the originals of copy from the paper's own reporter, and an agency, making this clear. He explained that when the story was sub-edited this distinction was omitted. He said police believed the seven were part of a big drugs ring.

The Press Council upheld the complaint and said in its adjudication that the Daily Express story appeared, by the sub-editing mishap, to have singled out seven Rastafarians, identifying their religion, and inferentially their race, while giving no clue to those of the 103 other people arrested at the same rock festival on, apparently, similar drugs charges.

In fact the charges were not similar, and the description of the seven as Rastafarians was not, therefore, a gratuitous singling out of them as the error made it appear.

Its effect, however, was to conflict with the Press Council's repeated ruling that people's race should not be introduced in a prejudicial context unless it is relevant.

Soldier on death charge

An inquest into the death of a soldier, who died after an incident with a smoke flare during an Army demonstration at a fete, was adjourned indefinitely by the Birmingham coroner, Dr Richard Whittington, yesterday when a serving soldier stationed in Lichfield, Staffordshire, was charged with his manslaughter.

Martin Weston, aged 23, died from a suspected heart attack when the bomb exploded at the Camp Hill rugby club's fete at their ground in Shirley, West Midlands.

Mark Andrew Wilson, aged 20, from Lapworth, Warwickshire, a member of the Assault Pioneer Troop, appeared before Coventry magistrates yesterday charged with the manslaughter of Mr Weston, who lived in Coleshill Heath Road, Marston Green.

He was remanded on bail.

Boxers bound over after disturbance

Two boxers and a boxing manager agreed yesterday to be bound over to keep the peace for two years by Newport magistrates after a street disturbance.

They were David Pearce, aged 27, the former British heavyweight champion, of Newport; Gwent; Andrew Gerrard, aged 23, the Welsh contender, of Risca, near Newport; and Billy May, the manager, of Newport.

Shinwell pair face charges

The wife of Lord Shinwell's son was accused at Marylebone Magistrates' Court in central London yesterday of helping her husband to dispose of £18,000 he allegedly swindled from a prospective buyer of his father's flat.

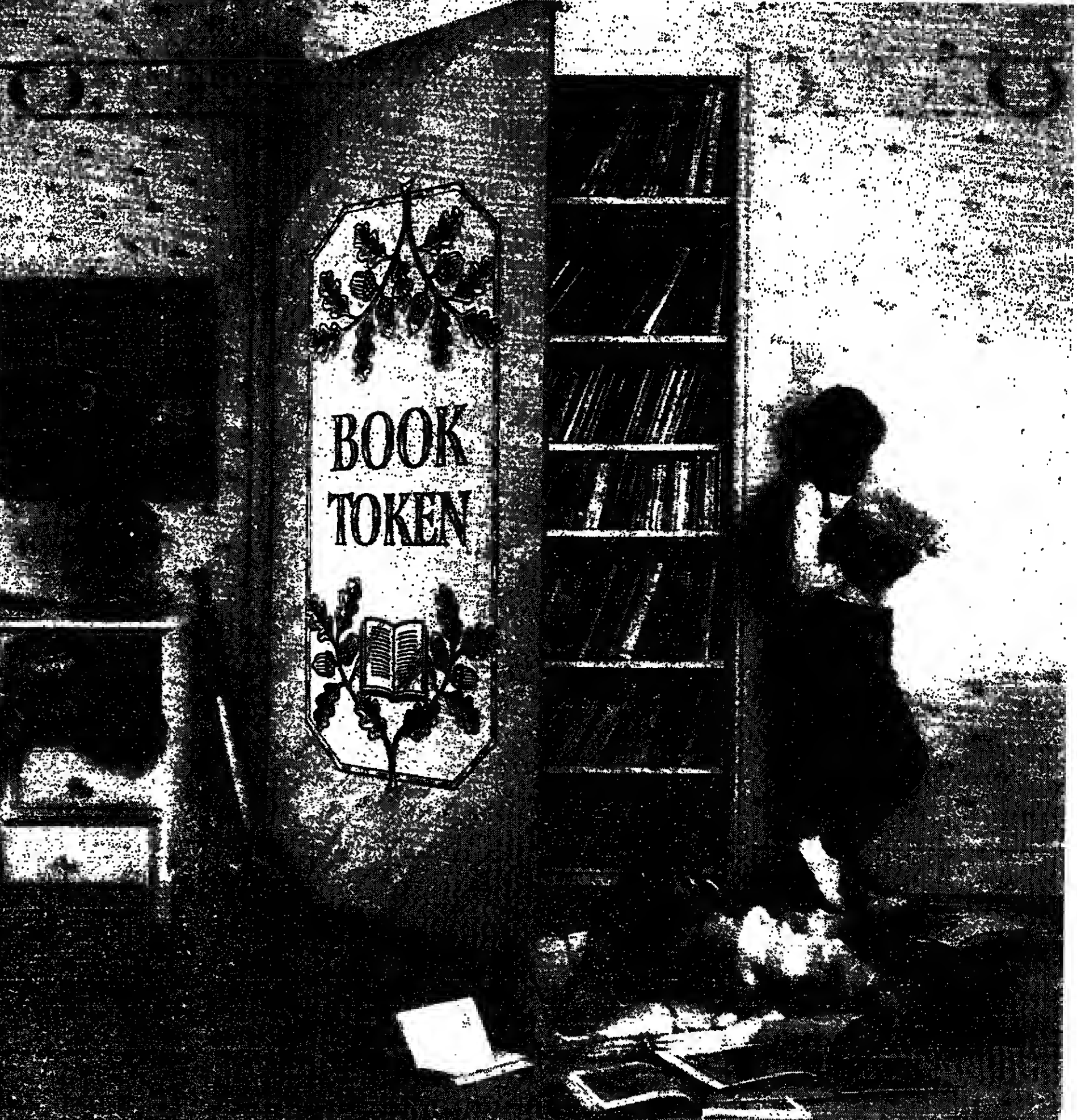
Mrs Hanoma Shinwell, aged 43, of Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, was remanded on bail to appear in January with her husband, Mr Ernest Shinwell, aged 68.

Students given chance to help US politicians

The English-Speaking Union is offering places for 15 British university students to work next summer as assistants to American congressmen and senators in Washington DC (Nicholas Beestoo writes).

The scheme is being launched in co-operation with the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Applicants should be interested in politics, economics and international affairs, and should possess skills in letter writing, word processing and research data.

Application forms can be obtained from: Mrs Alison Wynn, National Youth Officer, the English-Speaking Union, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1X 8AB.



Think of it as an open door.

A door into a room full of the world's most brilliant people, some of whom will become lifelong friends. We refer, of course, to the world of books.

A lot of children discover it for the first time via the local bookshop, clutching their mothers with one hand and Book Tokens in the other.

By giving a Book Token you make the introduction

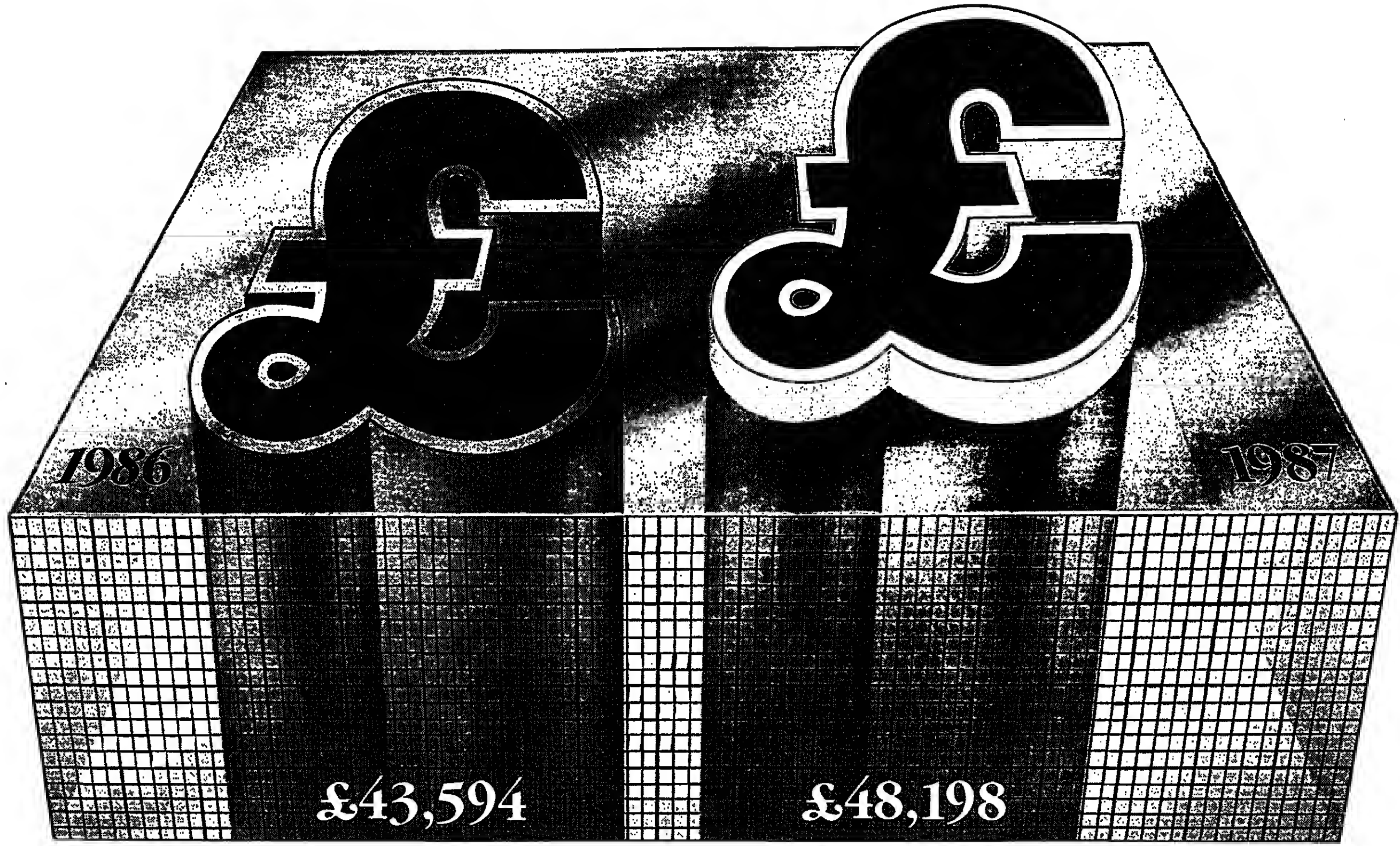
that much easier. You help children learn early the joys of browsing, of dipping in this and that until they find a book they really like.

If it's the latest Ant and Bee or Five go mad in Dorset, no matter. You will have opened the door for them. Next time they'll push it a little wider by themselves.



BOOK TOKENS START AT 50p AND RISE GENTLY TO £20 OR MORE. YOU CAN BUY AND EXCHANGE THEM IN PRETTY WELL EVERY BOOKSHOP.

NORWICH UNION PAYOUTS- UP YET AGAIN!

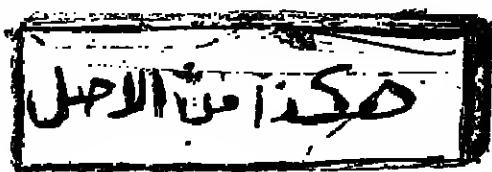


Isn't it time you were a Norwich Union with-profits Policyholder?

Norwich Union's investment skills are proven yet again. The payout from a 25-year with-profits endowment policy maturing in January 1987 rises from £43,594 to £48,198 – that's a huge 10.5%. The payout from a 15-year policy is up by 10.3%, £17,383 as against £15,750, last year, while even on a ten-year term, the payout is up from £7,922 to £8,431 – a 6.4% increase (all examples refer to a £30 per month policy taken out by a man age 29).

Ask any independent financial adviser about the consistency of Norwich Union payouts; the way we invest with flair and care; our great financial strength. We're confident you'll find that, all things considered....

You're better off the Norwich way.



THANKS A MILLION

...or, more accurately, thank you to each of around five million people who bought shares in British Gas. We gas people appreciate the confidence you've shown in us. And aim to justify that confidence by building on our success of the last twenty years or so.

Now, a word to our customers. You'll be glad to know that we intend to go on providing you with a comprehensive, first-class gas service. And to work even harder at improving it. Because we believe that by keeping our customers happy, we'll keep our shareholders happy, too.

So, if you're both a customer and a shareholder, you'll have *two* reasons for thinking gas is wonderfuel!



صكذامنا الاصل

Most w i
ble to
Democrat

WORLD SUMMARY

Foreign hostages freed at border

Geneva (Reuter) - Fifty-seven foreigners held in Mozambique by the National Resistance Movement (MNR) were released yesterday at the border with Malawi...

Kurds are released

Stockholm - Four of the Kurds held by police in the murder investigation of Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, have been released...

Bombing charges

Lusaka (AP) - Police have arrested three westerners on charges that they are South African agents and are responsible for bombings during last week's food riots in northern Zambia...

Intransigence charge

Madrid - A Spanish official who will be in London today for discussions on Gibraltar yesterday accused Britain of intransigence over the issue...

Trial set for Hall

Managua (Reuter) - President Ortega of Nicaragua has said that Mr Sam Hall, an American, is a terrorist and will stand trial before the people's tribunal which last month sentenced a US gun-runner, Eugene Hasenfus, to 30 years' imprisonment...

Change of pilots

Los Angeles (AP) - Dick Rutan, the exhausted pilot of the aircraft Voyager, has handed over control to his co-pilot, Jeana Yeager, after having guided the aircraft around a typhoon for 12 hours in their bid to circle the world non-stop on one tank of fuel...

Scandal minister free

Bonn - A former West German Cabinet minister accused of pocketing millions of marks from secret government funds for buying political prisoners out of East German jails was acquitted yesterday by the Bonn High Court...



Moscow in pledge to Democrats

From Christopher Walker Moscow Senator Gary Hart, favourite to secure the Democratic nomination for the 1988 American presidential race, yesterday said that Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, had pledged not to use the "irragate" scandal to stall arms negotiations between the superpowers...

Man taken in second Swazi raid

From Michael Horasby Johannesburg Swaziland police disclosed yesterday that a man was abducted in a second raid by armed men presumed to have come from South Africa on Monday night...

North 'plotted kidnap of Iranians to swap hostages'

From Michael Biryon Washington

Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the marine at the centre of the Iran affair, told a National Security Council (NSC) colleague that he planned to kidnap relatives of Iranian officials to swap them for Americans held hostage in Lebanon...



Lieutenant-Colonel North: still at the centre of controversy.

He outlined his bizarre scheme to Mr David Major, an incredulous counter-terrorism specialist, on the same day last month that a Lebanese magazine first published details of the secret sale of US arms to Iran...

The Los Angeles Times, quoting sources close to Colonel North, said he denounced the Beirut report as "disinformation". He claimed the real plan to free the hostages was not to trade them for arms but for relatives of Iranian Government officials...

Mr Major twice used the NSC computer to question Colonel North about his assertion. Colonel North twice ignored the queries. When asked a third time if he had ordered kidnappings, he tapped out the reply "yes", the Los Angeles Times said.

An Administration official said yesterday that Mr Major did not believe that Colonel North had actually kidnapped any Iranians. One source called the proposal "vintage Ollie" and another said: "He would rather tell a good story than the truth even if the truth serves his purposes better."

It is unclear how Colonel North intended to carry out his plan. One Iranian specifically mentioned was the nephew of Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament. Colonel North told Mr Major that the kidnapped Iranians would be eventually "traded back" and traded for the Americans...

evident attempt to get Admiral John Poindexter and Colonel North to testify.

"Rushing to grant immunity risks unnecessarily exculpating two of the principal actors in what may well be a major conspiracy to subvert the laws at the highest levels of government," he said.

Senior lawyers said even the granting of limited immunity would make any subsequent prosecution extremely difficult. Mr Richard Ben-Veniste, a former Watergate prosecutor, said Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General who recommended the step to President Reagan, was acting out of political motives, they said.

Following the Senate announcement of its special investigating committee into the Iran affair, the House yesterday announced the composition of its 15-man committee headed by Mr Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat. Vice-chairman will be Mr Dante Fascell, the Democratic chairman of the House foreign affairs committee.

The Senate committee will be headed by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a former prosecuting attorney in Honolulu. The senior Republican will be Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire, a former Attorney-General of his state and chairman of the Senate committee on ethics.

Senator Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat recently returned from a two-day visit to Nicaragua, said yesterday that there was a good chance Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the American sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for running weapons to the Contras, would be allowed to return to the US within a few days.

Warm welcome for EEC ministers' farm breakthrough

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Mr Frans Andriessen, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner, yesterday warmly welcomed the reforms agreed on Tuesday by EEC farm ministers at a meeting chaired by Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr Andriessen said that the package opened the way for a solution to the EEC's apparently insoluble budget crisis. The common agricultural policy (CAP) was a post-war creation designed to avoid shortages in Europe; but until now it had defeated efforts to adapt it to circumstances of surplus.

Mr Andriessen, who had repeatedly and almost despairingly urged the farm ministers to do something to stop the food mountains getting out of control, said that the process of reforming the CAP was far from complete.

The commission would put forward proposals for disposing of existing stocks as well as for curbing future output.

The farm package, agreed after lengthy talks, includes a cut of nearly 10 per cent in milk quotas over two years and a 13 per cent reduction in guaranteed prices for beef.

Mr Jopling was widely congratulated yesterday by EEC officials and Euro-MPs on his triumph.

EEC fisheries ministers yesterday opened the final talks of the British presidency, on talks on 1987 fishing quotas, including cod and haddock quotas in the North Sea.

Mr Andriessen echoed Mr Jopling's remark that the farm package meant that the "scandalous" surpluses built up over the past year "will be a thing of the past".

ments which made the package palatable to farmers would be paid for partly out of the savings made by reduced storage and price support costs. He put the saving in the dairy sector alone at over £1 billion.

Mr Andriessen said that the Farm Council had empowered the Commission further to suspend intervention (guaranteed EEC purchases of surplus food) if it was used excessively. Farm ministers are to define "excessively" by the end of February.

He stressed that the purpose was not to put pressure on the market but to restore intervention to its original purpose as a safety net.

He advanced four options on disposal of the 1,500,000 tonne butter mountain: exports to "certain destinations"; use of hotter for animal feeds; non-food uses; and cheap butter for EEC consumers.

The package would strengthen the EEC's international position and Brussels would be asking other negotiating parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to emulate the EEC and reform their farm subsidy systems.

The measures had the merit of acknowledging that southern EEC states were not responsible for most of the surplus output. This would avoid a north-south divide and preserve Community cohesion.

Britain retains its variable beef premium as part of the package and benefits from a 6 per cent devaluation of the green pound for beef transactions. Ireland, which initially vetoed the beef deal, receives a £20 million beef premium as the price of its acceptance of the package.

ABBNEY NATIONAL FIVE STAR ACCOUNT

Instant access rates climb even higher.



Now there's even more in Abbey National's Five Star Account for you. The two top rates of interest climb even higher. When your balance reaches £5,000, you're now up to 8.50% net p.a. and at £10,000 or more you reach a new top rate of 8.75% net p.a. - on all the money in your account.

INSTANT ACCESS.

Your Five Star money is still ready money - instantly available when you need it. You can withdraw up to £250 a day cash or £15,000 by cheque from any Abbey National branch.

24 HOUR ABBEYLINK SERVICE.

You can also apply for an Abbeylink card which allows you to deposit cash or cheques into your account, check your balance or withdraw up to £250 cash at any Abbeylink machine - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NO PENALTIES - NO CHARGES.

Five Star instant access is free. No penalties. No loss of interest. No charges. Make sure your interest keeps rising in a Five Star Account now. You can start with as little as £500 at any Abbey National branch. Or post the coupon.

FIVE STAR ACCOUNT

To Dept. FS13, Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, 201 Grafton Gate East, MILTON KEYNES MK9 1DA. I/We would like Five Star treatment for my/our money and apply immediately, enclosing a cheque for £... to be invested in a Five Star Account at my/our local branch in...

Please send full details and an application card. I/We understand the rates might vary. I/We understand that the interest will be credited annually on 1st September to this account.

Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____



Surinam's rebel leader again outwits Bouterse by capturing aircraft

From Christopher Thomas, Paramaribo

Sergeant Ronny Brunswijk, the young rebel soldier whose guerrillas are storming through eastern Surinam, has captured two aircraft in another stunning demonstration of his ability to outwit government troops.

With a touch of audacity that infuriates the military dictators, he uses the planes' radios to issue a constant string of demands for reforms. Sometimes he gives a warning that he will strike a military target on a given day unless his ultimatum is met.

One of the aircraft is a civilian 16-seater, the other is thought to be a light military plane. It is not known where they are being kept, but clearly Sergeant Brunswijk is in control of at least one of the eight airstrips to the east.

The nearest airstrip to his stronghold at Stoomman's Island, on the border with French Guiana, is 50 miles to the south at Benzodorp. But the planes could also be at the border town of Albina, which the Government has evacuated and which almost certainly is in rebel hands.

No places, including missionary aircraft, are allowed to fly to the east any more.

Air transport is the only practical means of travel in the nine-tenths of Surinam covered with dense trackless jungle. If Sergeant Brunswijk were able to fly and refuel his craft he would dramatically increase his tactical strengths.

Bush Negroes - rural blacks descended from runaway slaves - who have come to Paramaribo, say the Government has forced the evacuation of many entire villages in the east and there are strong indications that atrocities are

being committed against civilians.

Although Sergeant Brunswijk appears to take exceptional steps to avoid hurting civilians, there are strong suggestions that he, too, may have blood on his hands. At the time of the massacre in December 1982 of 15 civic leaders who had set up an opposition group, he was bodyguard to Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, the military strongman.

Some say he was present when the men were lined up in the centre of Paramaribo and shot. In any case, he remained



Sergeant Brunswijk: Hired skilled foreign mercenaries closely involved with the regime for well over three years after the atrocity before resigning over a pay dispute and heading into the jungle.

Although there is widespread international concern at what is happening in Surinam, it is far from clear what kind of political ideology Colonel Bouterse is trying to impose.

Despite many threats, no industries have been nationalized. Works by Marx, Che Guevara and Mao are nowhere to be found. There are no revolutionary posters, and indeed, the newest official

slogan - "Democracy yes, terrorism no" - is far from communist.

With 15 sergeants, Colonel Bouterse took over government buildings in 1980 to support a pay rise for the Army. It snowballed and he ended up running the country, apparently much to his own surprise.

He and his men hung up a suggestion box outside the army barracks in the early days. Soon, a military council was formed along with a civilian Government headed by a President, Dr Chin A Sen, who was ousted in January 1982 and now is in exile in The Netherlands.

Soon after taking power Colonel Bouterse became impressed by the newly formed People's Revolutionary Party, headed by a small group of Castroites. A People's Militia, the secret eyes and ears of the Government, was formed on the Cuban model.

Having turned away from Cuba in a policy shift in 1983, he is now flirting with Libya. Nobody knows where that might lead. Rather than pursuing any clear ideology, he seems to be twisting and turning simply to retain power.

Sergeant Brunswijk, too, was never known as an ideologue.

With the obvious co-operation of French Guiana, the rebel leader has talked with Dutch journalists in the vaguest of terms about what he wants to achieve.

It appears that, with copious funds secured from Surinamese exiles in The Netherlands, he has hired large numbers of skilled foreign mercenaries.



Emotional greeting: Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, left, embracing Mr Elie Weisel, the Romanian-born American Jew who won the 1986 Nobel peace prize for literature for his work arising from his own humiliation in concentration camps, to luncheon at the Prime

Minister's home in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr Shamir told foreign Jewish leaders that the predicted sharp decline in the world's Jewish population would be as catastrophic as the near-extirmination of European Jewry by the Nazis in the Second World War (Reuter reports from Jerusalem).

AFP crisis deepens as strike is extended

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The crisis at Agence France-Press (AFP), the world's third largest news agency and the only one based on the French language, deepened yesterday as journalists entered the second week of their strike and demanded the resignation of M Henri Pigeat, aged 46, its managing director for 10 years.

There have already been warnings that the strike could sound the death knell for AFP, which has been labouring under increasing competition from the two leading international agencies, Associated Press and Reuter, and suffering huge losses as a result.

After a deficit last year of 63.7 million francs (£6.8 million), the agency expects to make a further loss of 50 million francs this year on a turnover of 792 million francs, despite having shed 140 of its 2,000 staff in the past six months.

Under a controversial emergency restructuring plan introduced by M Pigeat in July, 300 jobs are due to be shed by 1989, half of them journalists. In addition, AFP's foreign-language services are due to be decentralized and streamlined, with the German desk moving from Paris to Bonn, the Latin American desk to Washington, and the Middle East desk to Nicosia.

The journalists are demanding the abandonment of most of the decentralization proposals and are refusing to accept compulsory redundancies. They say the plan will lead to a poorer quality and ultimately unviable service.

They put the entire blame for the crisis on M Pigeat, complaining that he has never had any direct journalistic experience, and accusing him of being "cold, arrogant and incompetent".

Forty heads of editorial departments signed a petition yesterday demanding his resignation. Such a move was "an indispensable condition for the resumption of normal working at the agency and for the maintenance of its place in the world".

AFP journalists voted two to one on Tuesday evening in favour of a further 48-hour extension of the strike, after the breakdown of the first attempt at negotiations between the management and unions. The talks lasted only 12 minutes before the journalists walked out.

There is now talk of bringing in a provisional administrator or a mediator.

Spanish pupils echo French protests

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Tens of thousands of Spanish secondary schoolchildren took to the streets yesterday to protest against the Socialist Government's policies on university education.

In Madrid, at least 50,000 teenage pupils marched to the Education Ministry to demand the immediate withdrawal of measures limiting university access, as well as calling for more public spending on education.

Teenagers in other cities, including Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Granada, also responded to a nationwide strike call, which left most of the state-run secondary schools without classes.

Though the organizers failed to bring out a majority of the two million schoolchildren involved, the demonstrations were the first challenge by young people to Senior Jose Mariáñez, the Socialist Education Minister.

The protesters want him to cancel the university entrance restrictions which he introduced in May, as well as removing the recent increases on student university fees.

The Spanish demonstrations echo events in France in recent weeks, but one of the organizers said: "We are not copying the French, though the two countries' education policies are very much alike."

The schoolchildren's fears about getting a place in Spain's already badly overcrowded universities are long standing, but the French example has clearly inspired the schoolchildren, as well as the Communists and political forces to the left of the governing Socialists.

Two rival groups tried to lead the protest: a Madrid committee based on 60 local state-run secondary schools, and a Marxist students' union which has suddenly surfaced from the provinces.

At a meeting before yesterday's march a majority resisted efforts by Madrid University students to take over the schoolchildren's more limited university entrance problems.

The two rival groups marched separately yesterday and Señor Marcelino Camacho, the communist trade union leader, switched from one group to the other.

Senior Education Ministry officials said that they would be willing to consider the schoolchildren's demands.

Dixons EXCLUSIVE PHILIPS COMPACT DISC DEALS

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER THIS CHRISTMAS



PHILIPS Compact Disc Midi Hi-Fi System
 £25 Cashback PLUS FREE Compact Disc Offer PLUS FREE CD Headphones

- Twin Cassette Decks
- Five-band Graphic Equaliser
- Three-band Stereo Radio
- Digital Tuning with 24 pre-sets
- Programmable CD Player
- Complete with speakers.

Model: FCD565.
PRICE AFTER CASHBACK £354.99
Dixons Deal
£379.99

NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT. ONLY £16 MONTHLY.

Triple Offer on all PHILIPS CD SYSTEMS!

£25 CASH BACK

Exclusive Dixons Cashback Offer lets you save a massive £25 on all these Philips CD Midi Hi-Fi Systems. Ask for details.

PLUS FREE COMPACT DISCS OFFER

Membership Offer: Buy 1 Compact Disc and get 2 more FREE. Ask for details.

PLUS FREE HEADPHONES

SBC482 Stereo Headphones FREE with any Philips CD System.

Privatization success French look to sale of banking group

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After the huge success of the privatization of St Gobain - the first of 65 public companies and banks due to be denationalized over the next five years - the French Government is pressing ahead with the sale of the Paris-based financial group.

From tomorrow, 20 per cent of the group's capital will be on offer under special conditions to French business institutions which, it is hoped, will form a "club of friends" designed to prevent any eventual foreign takeover. The main public floatation is due at the end of January or in February.

Shares for St Gobain, the glass and building materials group, were offered for sale three weeks ago at 310 francs (£33). Initial demand outstripped share offers by 14 times. The shares were already being quoted at 355-360 francs on the London "grey market" last week, and trading on the open market is due to start next Tuesday.

The Government was particularly pleased by the large number of small shareholders who came forward in a country where there is little tradition of popular share ownership.

More than a million of the 1.6 million St Gobain shareholders are private individuals, and the group now has six times more shareholders than any other French company.

Ten per cent of the capital was offered at preferential rates to the company's 150,000 employees. More than 60,000 immediately snapped up all the available shares.

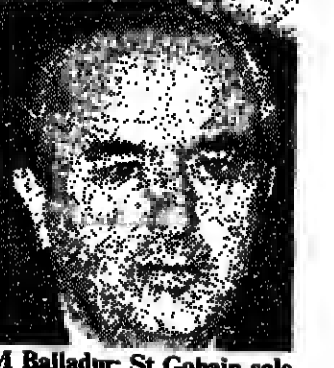
Abroad, the 18 per cent of the 28 million shares reserved for foreign investors were bought within 48 hours.

The Government had originally intended to sell 20 per cent of the capital on the foreign markets, but in the end to help to satisfy the overwhelming domestic demand.

M Edouard Balladur, the Finance Minister, described the operation at the weekend as "an exemplary success; the results show, without any argument, the birth of a truly popular share ownership in France".

The Government put forward its most attractive company first. St Gobain, which was nationalized in 1982, is well known throughout the world and made a healthy 753 million francs profit last year on a turnover of 67.8 billion francs.

The outstanding success of this first test-case nevertheless bodes well for the rest of the Government's highly ambitious privatization programme



M Balladur: St Gobain sale "an exemplary success", which involves half of the exceptionally large public sector in France, with an estimated value of 250-300 billion francs.

The Paris-based group, with profits last year of 2.7 billion francs on assets of 551 billion francs, is the next due for privatization. A television advertising campaign, showing the elegant interior of the group's Paris-based headquarters, began last week.

As with St Gobain, 10 per cent of the capital will be offered at preferential rates to the bank's 55,000 employees, while a further 20 per cent will be set aside for foreign investors.

In addition, 25 per cent of the capital will be offered in the form of "privileged investment certificates" which will attract a higher dividend but carry no voting rights.

The sale of Assurances Générales de France, the second biggest French insurance group and the third company due for denationalization, has run into technical problems and is not likely to take place until the autumn.

So it looks as if the first French television channel, TF1, will follow the privatization of Parisbas with a floatation due about March or April.

PHILIPS Compact Disc Midi Hi-Fi System
 £25 Cashback PLUS FREE Compact Disc Offer PLUS FREE CD Headphones

- CD player programmable to 20 tracks
- 3-band stereo radio
- Graphic equaliser
- Precision turntable.

Model: FCD560
PRICE AFTER CASHBACK £274.99

Dixons Deal
£299.99

NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT. ONLY £13 MONTHLY.

PHILIPS Complete Twin-Deck CD Midi System
 £25 Cashback PLUS FREE Compact Disc Offer PLUS FREE CD Headphones

- Auto-return turntable
- Auto-stop cassette
- 3-band stereo tuner
- 5-band Graphic equaliser

Model: FCD563.
PRICE AFTER CASHBACK £324.99

Dixons Deal
£349.99

NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT. ONLY £15 MONTHLY.

£1250 NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Dixons

300 HIGH STREET BRANCHES

For your nearest Dixons shop simply use Dixons 24 HOUR PHONE SERVICE **01-581 2268**

with Dixons Chargecard **APR 32.9%**

سکتا من الاجل

كنا من الأصل

Spanish pupils echo French protests

From Richard Wignall, Madrid

Tens of thousands of Spanish secondary schoolchildren took to the streets yesterday to protest against the Socialist Government's policies on university education.

In Madrid, at least 50,000 teenage pupils marched to the Education Ministry to demand the immediate withdrawal of measures limiting university access, as well as calling for more public spending on education.

Protesters in other cities including Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Granada, also responded to a nationwide strike which left most of the state-run secondary schools without classes.

The organizers failed to bring out a majority of the schoolchildren in the demonstrations, which were the first challenge to Mariano Solaun, Socialist Education Minister.

The protesters want him to cancel the university entrance requirements which he introduced in May, as well as to reverse the recent increase in student university fees.

The Spanish demonstration is the latest in a series of recent events in France in which schoolchildren have taken to the streets. "We are not alone in our countries' education systems," said one of the demonstrators.

The schoolchildren's demonstration took place in a city where the Socialist Government has already been accused of limiting university access by cutting the number of places available. The French schoolchildren, however, inspired by the Spanish demonstration, as well as by the protests and political actions of the left of the Socialist Government.

The groups tried to surround the university entrance requirements on 60 lists of secondary schools. The demonstrators were met by police and some were arrested.

The groups tried to surround the university entrance requirements on 60 lists of secondary schools. The demonstrators were met by police and some were arrested.

look to sale king group

The king group is looking to sell its shares to the public. The group has been successful in raising funds for its projects and is now looking to expand its operations. The group has been successful in raising funds for its projects and is now looking to expand its operations.



IF YOU MISSED OUT ON BRITISH GAS SHARES, HERE'S A BIT OF LUCK.

- The Premium Plus Account
- +
- Save £20,000 and get 9.2% p.a.
- +
- Immediate no penalty access on balances over £10,000
- +
- Save as little as £500 get a full 9.0% p.a.
- +
- Withdrawals with 2 months notice or 60 days loss of interest
- +
- Monthly income option available on £2,500 or over*
- +
- Available at any branch of the Alliance & Leicester

ALLIANCE + LEICESTER
Building Society

INTEREST IS NORMALLY PAID ANNUALLY AND THE RATES MAY VARY. *MONTHLY INCOME AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £2,500 OR MORE, CURRENTLY 8.75%, OR 9% ON BALANCES OF £20,000 OR MORE. INTEREST RATES QUOTED ARE NET OF BASIC RATE TAX. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE ARTS

A peace without mercy

In 1986, the International Year of Peace, \$1,000 billion was spent on arms and there were 15 wars. It was a peace which passed the understanding of most of us. In a report made through the eyes of four characters, *Global Report - People for Peace* (BBC2) was more successful at showing a world picture than Thames' recent celebration of UNICEF; it also revealed television's superiority as a medium for conveying the many textures of this world.

Admittedly, the programme got off to a slow, cumbersome start with Alfred Molina's Pitzmanesque voiceover and the usual eye-drooping footage of United Nations troops at work in the Lebanon. But, as one persevered, this production by Peter Firstbrook and Clare Paterson took flight. Few punches were pulled in meeting out blame. Indeed, a knobby finger was pointed at most of the developed countries in the UN, unruffled combinations of peace-keepers and arms suppliers.

TELEVISION

Two of those selected for their story were representatives of the "strong army means lasting peace" camp and as a result fairly institutionalized in their responses. Hans Vanmaele, a Nato pilot in the Belgian Air Force, was more or less saying Cheese to the idea of peace. His dog-fight training in an F-16, which rose like an evil moon above the tarmac, was a game to laugh at over a beer. Infinitely more rewarding was to see the Labrador Indians whose peace was violated by such low-flying aircraft. "They treat us like the enemy", lamented the timid Sylvester Andrew, a hunter whose traditional way of life is being steam-rollered by the Nato airbase.

Of all those who appeared, however, from the President of Costa Rica to Desmond Tutu, it was the Kampuchean grandmother Cheing Yau who left the most impact. When her son-in-law appeared back at the Thai refugee camp, without legs, she wept from depths of both relief and grief. Together as a family again, they remained a family without a future. What a world, one thought, watching her daughter's face and the man's eye legs. What a horrible, horrible world.

Nicholas Shakespeare

The anti-American rock group New Model Army have at long last broken into the United States: David Sinclair meets them in New York

Puritan problem

Jason Harris (left), Slade the Leveller, Robb Heaton (photograph by Michael Scott)

A group sadly lacking the necessary "distinguished merit and ability" was the decision of the United States immigration authorities in turning down New Model Army's petition for an H1 visa, the document required by alien entertainers wishing to perform in America. Given that the trio who formed in Bradford in 1982 had already secured a major recording contract with EMI/Capitol, released two albums and even appeared on *Top of the Pops*, this seemed a harsh judgement, especially when recent applications by such groups as GBH, the Poison Girls and Easterhouse had been approved without comment.

New Model Army's case has become the most notorious of its kind. They were turned down three times, and released a third album before the authorities had a change of heart enabling the group to undertake an 11-date tour which began in Boston on December 4.

When they arrived in New York this week the streets were teeming with Christmas shoppers. As Frank Sinatra prepared to open the refurbished Carnegie Hall, an exhausted, wretched-looking Slade the Leveller sat in the drab dressing-room of the 400-capacity Lone Star Club in Greenwich Village.

Theories as to the reason for New Model Army's previous inadmissible status ranged from the view of the current immigration attorney, Richard Fraude, that the documentation accompanying the unsuccessful petitions was inadequate, to the more romantic notion that the group's



Excellence regarded with mistrust

"It is time", said Sir Georg Solti, in one of those phrases only he can invent, "to grasp the hot iron." The burning object in question is the threat to opera standards in London.

Solti had just returned from Paris, where a senior French government official had been praising Covent Garden to him and expressing envy at "one of the few, stable operatic institutions in the world". But what did Solti find back in London but newspaper and television talk of cut-backs, possible close-downs and demands for greater dependence on private funding. Solti, with virtually a decade as Music Director at Covent Garden behind him and Frankfurt before that, was vehement, the eyes burning even more brightly than usual.

The Arts Council is expected to announce the new grants for Covent Garden and ENO this weekend. Sir Georg Solti (left), former Music Director of the Royal Opera House, speaks out for the first time to John Higgins about current public underfunding of opera in Britain

too quickly. It is time for us to speak up for something that should be a source of national pride - and I am referring to Covent Garden because it is the house in which I worked and will continue to work. Covent Garden has made boobies: we all make boobies from time to time - Solti makes boobies. But it is essential that Britain has an international opera house and not a half-international house. And it should be properly funded.

"Building up is a slow process; pulling down can be achieved all too quickly. It is time for us to speak up for something that should be a source of national pride - and I am referring to Covent Garden because it is the house in which I worked and will continue to work. Covent Garden has made boobies: we all make boobies from time to time - Solti makes boobies. But it is essential that Britain has an international opera house and not a half-international house. And it should be properly funded.

growing stronger after that report. Things have been going wrong over the past three years or so. Greater dependence on private funding is not the answer. I don't know an opera house in Europe which is other than reliant on support from local or national government. Every theatre has fixed costs, mostly labour, which cannot be altered. It is argued that artists' fees are too high, but the money paid to the Domingos, Karajans and Soltis is but a small fraction of the overall budget. Opera is expensive - it always has been expensive - and if

we want it then it must be paid for. "Once Britain used to be accused of being a nation of philistines. It is not true, although there are certainly some philistines among the civil servants. On the contrary, I know no capital in the world with a musical audience more appreciative than the one in London. But what I do note here is a tendency to see excellence, and especially professional excellence, as something rather suspicious. It is a malaise, it is growing and it must be arrested. In Paris Mitterand gives the order for the Musée d'Orsay and the city has a wonderful new building. The Orchestre de Paris, too that it has a permanent home in the Salle Pleyel under Barbenbois, is a totally reformed and powerful force. In London we must not let things slide. It is time to speak for a return to excellence."

Playing as if they adore it

CONCERT

ASMF/Brown Festival Hall

There was nothing out of the ordinary about this concert. Nothing, that is, except the performers, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, whose cornerstone the early 18th-century repertoire is. They may have disdained the authentic cudgels of the period-style propagandists, but in some respects they have moved with the times.

Their rhythms are beautifully pointed and they always make the textures clear, even if by modern (or rather, ancient) standards the group is largely. And one is more likely to encounter patches of stylish ornamentation than used to be the case. But, most important, they play the music as though they adore it, and in consequence it lives.

For that, much of the credit belongs to the Academy's director and leader, Iona Brown, who here showed that she knows just how much - or how little - to dominate,

directing with an exaggerated bow-stroke here, a deft raising of the eyebrows there. Moreover, her style of solo playing has none of the disadvantages of that of many of her authenticist colleagues. In Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, she projected an unabashedly forthright tone, swelling to a tremendously forceful richness, for example, in the second movement of "Spring", while, although she hardly made the work sound easy, her technique was utterly reliable.

The light and shade of her reading was matched by apt choices of tempo, save that for the hunting finale of "Autumn", where Harmoncourt's

recording, fast, furious and panic-stricken, just like a real chase, has become my personal benchmark. But Brown certainly gave its rhythms an aggressive accentuation, negating brusquely the deliciously somnolent effect of John Constable's harpsichord decorations in the previous movement. Constable, incidentally, provided some improvised widdies that verged delightfully upon the camp throughout the work.

Earlier, in Bach's B minor orchestral Suite, the flautist William Bennett likewise ensured that he kept the prominence of his role to a level befitting chamber music, taking the "Badinerie" carefully and phrasing all of his solo music exquisitely. But he is an Academy regular, and so we should hardly expect anything else.

Stephen Pettitt

A group of irresistible talent

LONDON DEBUTS

There are debuts and debuts. London recently had one of each. First, the good news. The Novsak Trio are already well established on the Continent - their leader, Primoz Novsak, is Yugoslav, but the other two come from Switzerland where the ensemble is based - and play as though they have been together for years. Novsak himself leads with purpose and spirit; Michel Rouilly's viola is unusually big-voiced; Susanne Bestler's cello of distinctive character and imaginative breadth. Together they make music as if they are absolutely thrilled to be doing so.

They showed themselves as a trio only in two British premieres of works dedicated to them: their classical repertoire was represented by Mozart and Brahms Piano Quartets in which they were joined by Günter Ludwig, a pianist every bit their equal in musical energy.

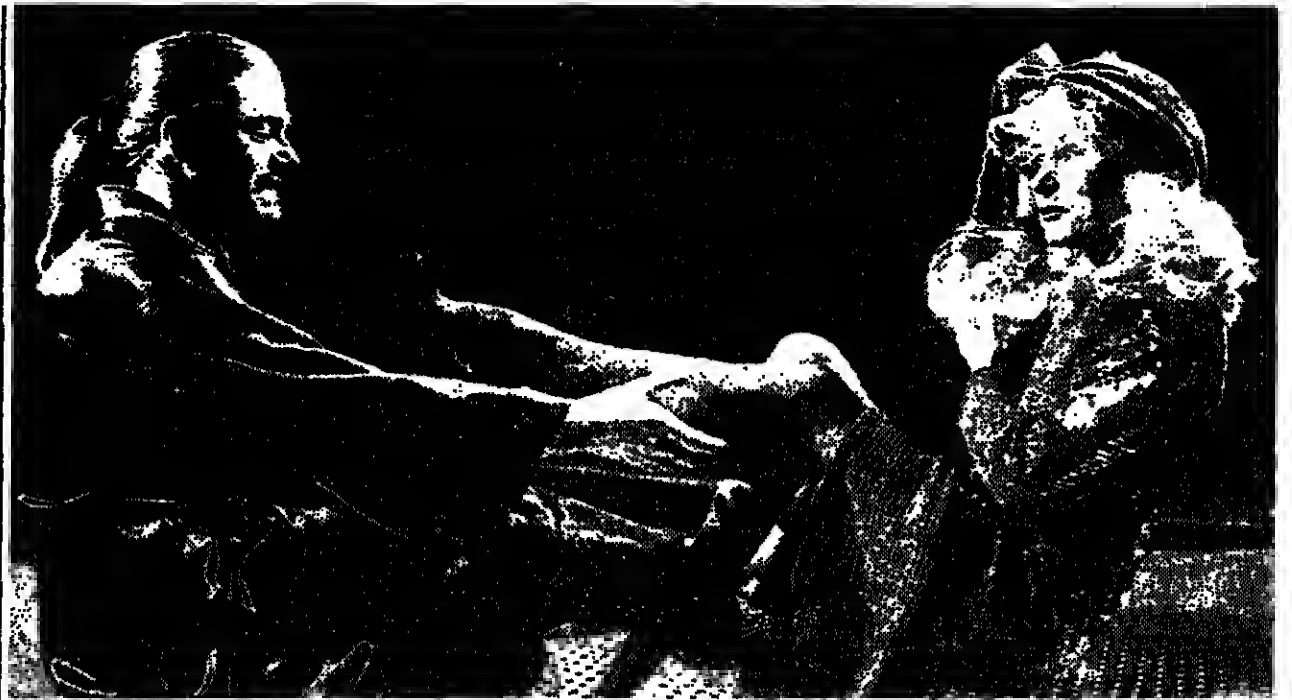
Uros Krek's 1977 String Trio of three continuous movements - a strongly sculpted fugue, an interlude and a caprice - was a compel-

lingly intense and intensely economic piece, breathing the air of Shostakovich's chamber music, but with a spirit and voice very much its own. This and a more heavily post-romantic Piano Trio by Joseph Haselbach put the Novsak on their mettle.

The Brahms (G minor, Op 25) and particularly the Mozart (E flat, K493) Quartets revealed the fusion of seriousness and imaginative stimulus which makes the playing of the trio so irresistible. The judgement of tempi and their interrelationships was particularly exciting; they must return to London soon.

The 26-year-old Greek guitarist Dionysios Dervis will have to wait a little longer. His programme of Bach, Villa-Lobos and Frank Martin demonstrated playing which would be idiosyncratic (eccentric even) if the technique were at all sound. As it is Dervis, whose articulation is nimble enough, badly needs direction in almost every other aspect of his playing. Why, for instance, choose the violin rather than the lute version of the Third Bach Partita? Why work laboriously through five Villa-Lobos Preludes when they are made to sound all the same? And why end with the composer's ragbag of *Choros* when their ponderous jollity can only be pulled off with the sort of strain for which this debutante is only beginning to seek?

Hilary Finch



But just what is she sending up? - Susan Tracy with Roger Allam (photograph by Donald Cooper)

THEATRE

Heresies

The Pit

Not the most pig-like male chauvinist, seeking to poke fun at feminist theatre, could improve on the opening of Deborah Levy's play, which shows a dignified lady composer striking a few faltering octaves on her upstage grand, closely followed by a cleaner singing "And the women of the Danube are fruitful" as she scurries the stage, while in the background a third figure is rhythmically tramping grapes in a foot-bath.

All 12 characters in the piece have names. But they are also identified as "the courtesan", "the educator", "the student" and similar descriptions assigning them to particular social roles. We are, in other words, witnessing a thematic drama; which, as the rest of the long evening goes to prove, is a contradiction in terms.

It consists of several little character groups, who seem to have been brought quite fortuitously together on the same acting area. There is Leah, the composer, and her companion

director's relationship to the material". She might as well have put up a placard saying "spectators keep out". Apart from the nervous obsession with "creativity", the material appears mainly to refer to the question of belief. Most of the characters are looking for a belief or losing one. Downstage, evidently to rub this in, is an aquarium full of dead fish.

About halfway through the evening Miss Levy embarks on a plot which involves her in trying to pull together a group of characters who have nothing to do with each other. The architect Pimm (Roger Allam) turns out to have been Leah's pupil and has a go at a Chopin prelude while she lectures him on selling out. The jealous courtesan, Maryonaise (sic), egged on by the witches, sets about kidnapping Pimm's daughter with the object of shipping the child and its cleaner mother back to the Danube. The stage becomes engulfed in coincidences and unlooked-for

reunions which would do credit to a Drury Lane melodrama. And the evening winds up with an attractive instrumental piece by Ilona Sekacz for which Leah takes the credit, standing to ooze side seraphically illuminated. The piece is written in elevated platitudes, and characters strike attitudes and deliver editorializing rhetoric as if it were dialogue. Some good performers are involved in this sorry mess; and, in the case of Miriam Karim as a raddled old showbiz mother and Ann Mitchell as the quietly dignified housekeeper, they momentarily bring the stage to life. Susan Tracy, turning double somersaults in increasingly dazzling jumpsuits, is as eye-catching as a golden lizard; though, as my woman neighbour remarked, "That blonde's sending something up - but what?". If the group could not have seen that there was no play here: surely the RSC management might have pointed this out to them.

Irving Wardle

DANCE

The Kosh

The Place

are less strenuously pursued here, the skiffel falls casually introduced in different ways for each performer being more effective than the artfully insinuated somersaults and balances. They are supplemented with simple dance and stylized gesture, also a lot of deliberately repetitive talking (live and recorded), chanting

and singing by the performers. The sequences showing various aspects of sorrow are carefully worked out for contrast and effect. But they leave the spectator too conscious of the range of study from which they have been developed. The outcome of Michael Merwitz's conscientious direction is that they seem illustrations of textbook situations, not a really theatrical transformation of the material.

The solo *Peasant on the Run*, on the other hand, seems all theatrical effect. An opening change of costume (on stage but extremely discreet)

transforms the dancer from modern casual clothes to a quaint, pseudo-flamenco dress. Thereafter it is contrast all the way: prayer followed by provocative flaunting, enigmatically intense gestures set against light folksy steps. Probably it means more to the performer than to her audience.

Both works are cluttered by boring, trite sound scores by Howard J. Davidson, but redeemed by the performers: Sian Williams in both pieces, with Fiona Creese and Richard Atlee in *Telling Tales*.

John Percival

CHRISTMAS AT THE LONDON COLISEUM

Bizet's CARMEN

Sat & Tue 7.00 then Dec 29 Jan 3, 6 and continuing "stunning 1950's West Side Story-style production" D. Mail "vividly sung and acted Carmen (Sally Burgess)" D. Telegraph



cast inc: Sally Burgess, John Treloaver/John Harris, Rosamund Iling, David Arnold Conductors Mark Elder/Paul Daniel Producer David Pountney Designer Mario Björnson

Strauss's DIE FLEDERMAUS

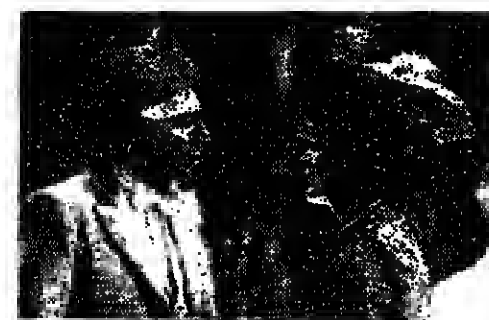
Tonight at 7.30 then Dec 27, 31 Jan 9, 15 and continuing "visually handsome... stylish and entertaining" D. Telegraph



cast inc: Volera Masterson/Catherine Wilson, Alan Opie, Lillian Watson, Stuart Kale, Christopher Booth-Jones, Fiona Kimm, Eric Shilling, Simon Mosterton-Smith Conductor Herbert Prikapo Producer Tom Howkes Designer Tim Goodchild

Janáček double-bill OSUD/ The Diary of One Who Disappeared

Opens Tomorrow at 7.30 then Dec 22, 30 Jan 2, 7, 10 only Osud "an unforgettable evening of music theatre" Financial Times



casts inc: Diary Arthur Davies, Jean Rigby, Paul Crossley (solo piano) Osud Philip Langridge, Eilene Honnan, Emile Belcourt, Ludmilla Andrew Conductor Mark Elder Producer David Pountney Designer Stefanos Lazaridis



Sunday December 21 at 7.30 - Royal Gala Tribute Stors of opero, theatre and dance honour Lord Goodman Tickets £4.00 - £18.50. Some Gala seats of £50.00 & £75.00

English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 Box Office: 01-836 3161 Credit Cards 01-240 5258 Septs £4 - £18.50

The phantom of the actor

THE TIMES PROFILE

MICHAEL CRAWFORD

There is a certain kind of fame which seems to be built on anonymity. Virtuoso stars of musicals, in particular, seem to be so aggressively there when on stage that they almost vanish when off it. Nobody, for example, ever seems to do a very good job of saying precisely what Michael Crawford is like.

On the one hand, of course, he is Frank Spencer of *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em*, writing and apologising for yet another appalling domestic blunder. Or he is Phineas T. Barnum, or Billy, or the Phantom of the Opera. On the other hand he is a somewhat odd, isolated individual, exercising on his rowing machine in his house by the river at Wapping and commuting daily to Her Majesty's Theatre.

Even his name has changed, as if in response to the uncertainty of his identity. Born Michael Dumbell Smith, he became Michael Ingram via his step-father and finally he legally adopted his stage name of Crawford — chosen from a passing biscuit trolley — in 1965.

He was born in Salisbury in 1942. His father, a pilot, had been killed in action before his birth and he spent his first three years in an army camp being brought up by his mother. After the war, he moved with his mother to Sheerness in Kent, the home of his maternal grandmother who was to become the central figure in his family life. His mother then remarried and they moved to Bexleyheath.

It was a happy childhood which only ran into problems at school. He went first to a choir school in Bexley. His mother had no theatrical ambitions for him but liked hearing him sing. They subsequently moved to Herne Hill and he went to school in Dulwich — not to the school in Dulwich but to one next door called Oakfield. It was nevertheless private and a considerable burden for his hard-up family.

Academically he survived adequately in class but proved incapable of passing exams. Escape, however, was at hand. Their next door neighbour in Herne Hill spotted an advertisement, placed by the English Opera Company, in the *Daily Telegraph*. They wanted boy sopranos for the juvenile leads in Benjamin Britten's opera *The Turn of the Screw*. He went along, recited a poem and sang *Early One Morning*. He made it to the last five boys out of 800. But at the final audition at the Criterion Theatre he went to pieces and another boy — one David Hemmings — got the part.

Six months later, he was called back. Now they were looking for somebody to sing *The Little Sweep* in Britten's *Let's Make an Opera* and the final audition was in Britten's house in Regent's Park. He made it and opened in the show at the Royal Court, sharing the part with Hemmings. Soon afterwards, a schoolmaster at Oakfield wrote a play for schools radio. Crawford sang a song, was taken on by an agent and by the time he was 15, he had made around 500 radio broadcasts as well as being in Britten's next opera, *Noye's Fludde*.

He was an energetic, extrovert teenager. He was captain and goalkeeper of the school football team, but he was sent off every week for dissent. He embarked on immense cycle rides — to South-east or Brighton in back in a day — and later, aged about 19, he became an early Mod.

He left Oakfield at 15 and went into rep at Coventry for a year, working with Richard Briers, Alan Howard and Frank Finlay. Returning to London, he kept up the radio work and supplemented his income by working as a waiter in Lyons' Corner House.

His athletic efficiency was such that he looked after a whole, normally took four waiters. He was writing dozens of letters to producers. Yet, much as he enjoyed show business, he nursed an ambition to earn some qualifications and become a test pilot, a job for which he was convinced he was perfectly suited.

But he was spotted at Lyons by a TV producer who gave him a part in *Emergency Ward 10* consisting of one line delivered from a body encased from head to foot in bandages. He forgot the line — a disastrous state of affairs for a live show — and had to raise the bed sheet to peer downwards at a prompt card with the unforgettable "Have you seen this, Nurse?" written upon it. He never went back on that medical soap.

The Sixties embraced Crawford as it did many others. A small part in a Steve McQueen film — *The War Lover* — led to a big part in the 18-month London run of Neil Simon's *Come Blow Your Horn*. It was a part that lifted Crawford to a higher show business rank and identified him as a comic actor. But the *Zeigists* really took hold with his part in the Richard Lester film *The Knack* and the role of the gormless, motorcycling Byron in Ned Sherrin's *Not So Much a Programme, More a Way of Life*.

In 1965 he married Gabrielle Lewis, an actress. Soon afterwards



As seen, occasionally, in real life: is Michael Crawford more, or less, than the sum of his parts?

Emma was born and in 1967 the Crawfords went to New York for his Broadway run in Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*. Gene Kelly spotted him, cast him for the third lead in *Hello, Dolly* and suddenly the Crawfords were living in Bel Air next door to Elvis Presley, who put his house on the market after a week — possibly, muses Crawford, because he rehearsed his songs for the film standing on the back garden wall. But those six months cured him of any hankering after Hollywood.

"It wasn't a lifestyle that I could be happy with. It wasn't real. It was like living on Astronut — you try to kid yourself it needs watering."

For Crawford, as for many others, the seventies came like a long hangover. He walked into two disasters: he lost £250,000 in an ill-judged property investment and then his marriage collapsed. "I still have a great affection for Gabrielle — we get on very well. But we married very young and grew apart. I don't suppose it was too easy for her to cope with what I was doing — work is a big part of your life."

The break-up began while Crawford was making the first series of *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em* and the divorce was completed during the two-year run of the musical *Billy* at Drury Lane. The divorce settlement left him more

or less broke and he found he had to start again. He bought a cottage in Bedfordshire — the success of the TV series meant that in London he could not walk down the street without being accosted.

The 13 episodes of *Some Mothers* of 1973 had turned Frank Spencer into a figure of popular legend as well as one of the castiest targets for every impressionist in the business. He performed his own stunts and established himself as one of the most athletic stars around. He made seven more in the late seventies but refused to continue, realising the danger of falling off the tightrope between being funny and being pitiable.

By the 20th episode, Crawford

BIOGRAPHY



As seen, frequently, in public life: Frank Spencer (left) he loved — and left behind to go on stage as Billy, Barnum and The Phantom

1942: Born January 19, Salisbury, St Michaels College, Bexley and Oakfield School, Dulwich.
1957: Went into repertory.
1964: Film *The Knack*.
1965: Stage appearance in *Travelling Light* and film of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Married Gabrielle Lewis, actress.
1968: *Hello, Dolly*.
1970: *Hello and Goodbye*.

1971: Stage version of *No Sex Please, We're British*.
1973: *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em*.
1974: Musical *Billy*.
1975: Divorce finalised.
1976: Play, *Same Time Next Year*.
1978: ITV comedy series *Chalk and Cheese*.
1979: *Flowers for Algernon*.
1981: *Barnum* five-year run starts.
1986: *Phantom of the Opera*. Wins second Laurence Olivier award for the outstanding performance in a musical.

detected the laughter might be about to become a little uneasy. He even turned down a \$3 million offer to take Spencer to America. "People said I was mad, that I wouldn't have to worry for the rest of my life. But what life? I wouldn't have one, after five years of that I would never do anything else again."

In any case, it was still the theatre that moved him most. When remembering television or film he is pensive, when remembering stage shows he leaps to his feet and starts re-running the performance. This happens most enthusiastically when he recalls *Flowers for Algernon*. He played a mentally retarded man who struck up a relationship with a mouse — among other things this involved an elaborate musical number with a mouse he had trained himself. "Every night this mouse was just brilliant, he brought the house down. I got the best reviews of my life — I know it was the best thing I've ever done but the show closed after six weeks. I think the ending was just too sad. People stayed in their seats crying. And three weeks after the show closed that mouse just died..."

Next came *Barnum*, a show which took Crawford's acrobatic abilities to the limit and accounted for five years of his life — but for one year off. And it was when the closure of *Barnum* was announced that he was contacted by Andrew Lloyd Webber and asked to play the Phantom.

The role is that of the romantic lead — gone are the comedy and the acrobatics. The effects are, of course, expensive and intriguing but the show as a whole is virtually unimaginable without Crawford. He brings to what would otherwise be a rather messy piece of hokum that curious intensity, a total involvement which critics have noticed in everything he does.

Harold Fielding, the impresario responsible for *Barnum*, says that Crawford is the most dedicated performer he has ever come across. He points out that Crawford played the part of Barnum for four years — nobody else has lasted more than one year. But he also notes a certain shyness in the man: "He is not easy to get to know. But, once you do, he tends to become a friend for life. Even though *Barnum* has been closed for some time the cast still get together for reunions — and that is thanks to Michael."

All this is more than mere professionalism, it seems to spring from an almost naive determination to win praise, to be utterly and completely engrossed in whatever he is doing. Repeatedly his conversation returns to the need for people to be encouraged, to be led on. He speaks with almost childlike pleading and his dressing room at Her Majesty's is filled with toy clowns and trinkets in the manner of a nursery.

He treats this room as his home. Each night the make-up artist spends two and a half hours with him, leaving him as The Phantom at about six. From then onwards he complies through a straw — the make-up precludes eating — and, as the show begins, he sits silently on the coffee table waiting for his cue. Before he goes on he crosses himself.

He laughs nervously as I leave. There are still a couple of hours to go before he starts being turned into the Phantom and looking at him it is difficult to imagine who he will be for that brief interval.

Bryan Appleyard

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1986
Phantom of the Opera is playing at Her Majesty's Theatre. A television film of *Barnum* will be shown on BBC1 on Boxing Day (5.40pm)

In Britain's biggest cultural growth area — museums and galleries — the need for modern marketing techniques was recognised long before yesterday's announcement of £250,000 of Government money to encourage market research and advanced publicity methods.

Museums and galleries, faced by the realities of a 3 per cent grant increase this year alongside costs rising by about 6 per cent, are already setting up a series of massive marketing and merchandising machines to plug the gap.

Neil Cossons, for example, new director of the Science Museum, set publicly funded museums in turmoil by introducing admission charges and appointing a marketing manager at the National Maritime in 1983.

He is in the final stages of head-hunting a £30,000-a-year marketing specialist for the Science Museum. "We reckon that the institution needs that weight of management ability. The object is to double our generated income of £1 million over the next 18 months to two years."

Hard sell in the gallery

The idea of putting art on the market was not, it seems, born yesterday

Sir Roy Strong of the V & A announced admission charges last year as part of a marketing strategy of which a more important element would be V & A Enterprises — "we will be the Laura Ashley of the 1990s," he said.

V & A Enterprises, set up with bank loans and money from a bequest, has a commercial director, Michelle Stewart, brought from Debenhams. Her first task is to get the shop working properly: it is to be completely redesigned during a five-

month closure by Donald Davis of Next.

Meantime, there are negotiations with manufacturers to turn the V & A's endless stock of design material into products, and to get the products retailed country-wide. V & A Enterprises is expected to stand or fall on its own marketing skills. A turnover of £300,000 expected in 1987/88 and no profits until the following year. Eventually there will be shops in department stores and in about 10 tourist centres around the country.

The Natural History Museum hired Terry Scowen-Gear from British Telecom as their corporate marketing consultant in April.

Last week he launched the Passport, an information card given to visitors in which advertising space is sold. He hopes it will make up to £70,000 towards the museum's projected £7/88 shortfall of £1.3 million. "My dream is to extend the Passport to include museums around the world: Russia, Moscow, France, Australia, America."

Sue Runyard, who has worked for both the V & A and the NHM, is setting up the Museum Development Unit in partnership with Eliby Blume of the Charities Advisory Trust. "We will be offering an initial consultancy visit free to any publicly funded museum," said Runyard, "and we hope that that will form the basis for further action by them rather than needing further lengthy consultancy."

Caroline Hamby-Teck's Museums and Galleries of Great Britain has a mail order brochure this Christmas with a print run of 50,000 — selling diaries, scarves, jewellery, prints and so on for 98 museums. This year John Beale, creator of the Early Learning Centres, has also gone into the field with Past Times, a catalogue which offers almost anything from a paperback *Book of Kells* to a tapestry kit based on a British Library hanging.

Simon Tait

Whispering through the ground barrier

Will the new breed of super-quiet passenger jets draw the teeth of imminent anti-noise legislation?



Not hearing is believing: the British Aerospace 146 airliner

Dennis O'Dell, vice-president of Pacific Southwest Airline, has hardly stopped smiling since February 14, 1985. Even now the smile turns into a huge grin when he remembers the telephone call he received that day at his office in San Diego, California. The caller told him that the British Aerospace 146 jet his airline had just bought had landed at John Wayne, Orange County — America's most noise-conscious airport — at a decibel level so low it had fulfilled the most stringent noise reduction regulations yet devised.

"We were as surprised as anyone," he said. "But we proved conclusively that it is possible to have jets operating into built-up areas. That test blew the protesters right out of the water. The environmental groups want to put incredible restrictions on aircraft movements, but when the vast majority of people who want good air services find they are being affected, they will protest in their turn."

His view is shared by British airlines contemplating Government action within the next few weeks to tighten controls on aircraft noise. Michael Spicer, the Aviation Minister, who will be largely responsible for making the changes, has already bowed to what he sees as vital political interests. To avoid aircraft from Gatwick flying over Gravetye Manor, a 16th century house that is now one of the most exclusive hotels in West Sussex, Spicer ordered all pilots to delay their turn on to a southerly heading.

The move delighted the hotel owner, Peter Herbert, but it infuriated residents of

East Grinstead who had to suffer the noise. Instead, through their MP, Tim Raton, they bombarded Spicer's department with complaints. Now he has promised to force the jets into an even tighter flight path designed to miss both groups of noise protesters, a promise airlines say is nonsense because such pro-

"We are very sceptical about the quiet aircraft"

cess track-keeping is impossible with existing technology. Ironically, the demands for greater control of aircraft noise have reached a crescendo of their own just as airlines are embarking on massive investment in new aircraft which are quieter than those now in service. But their efforts have had little effect on the views of the protesters in Britain. Recently Neil Mathewson, chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, said:

different proposal. Some propose that all airlines be banned from huying existing "noisy" jets from 1990 and be banned from using them after 1995. Others want to delay a total ban until 2012 because of the massive costs involved.

There is now so much confusion that the International Civil Aviation Organization — the body responsible for laying down international standards — has decided to postpone all further consideration of the noise control measures until 1988.

At the beginning of last year, however, the authorities at John Wayne installed nine noise monitoring units and displayed them publicly so that locals could see what noise the aircraft made. Then the authorities ruled that no aircraft which registered more than 86dB could use the landing strip without penalty or control. They hoped that this would "trap" all the commercial jets yet allow the light aircraft and business jets to continue operating.

Harvey Elliott

It did not work that way, for when Dennis O'Dell's new BAe 146 flew in it was well below the 86dB limit. To have lowered the cut-off point still further would have meant that the dozens of private aircraft would also have been caught. So they had no option but to allow the 146 to fly in.

Now it dominates the internal air routes and rival airlines — such as Air Cal, which is based at John Wayne — have also bought the 146. PSA and Air Cal's operations with the BAe 146 have proved so successful that last week US Air bought PSA and American Airlines took over Air Cal, promising to keep their operations intact.

Michael Spicer has seen for himself the benefits of the new quiet aircraft. The question now is whether he can find a way to pacify the protesters by appearing to get tough on noise and at the same time avoid crippling the airlines.

Harvey Elliott

Happily, your help could make all the difference between a healthy old age and infirmity

Contrary to popular thought, infirmity is not an inevitable result of old age. Indeed, medical research is today coming to terms with more and more traditional ailments like senile dementia, incontinence, wasted muscles, fragile bones, hypothermia and loss of taste.

We've every hope that one day soon these can be cured for good. But we need your help to carry on our work. Over £1,000,000 is already well invested in nearly 70 key projects. It's nowhere near enough. Please become a friend and help us make all the difference between a healthy old age and infirmity.



Adding life to years

TO: BRITISH FOUNDATION FOR AGE RESEARCH
FREEPOST, LONDON EC4A 3AQ

I enclose a cheque for £5/£10/£100/£1000
 Please contact me as a Friend of Age Research and send my badge.
 Please tell me more about your work and other ways I can help.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Printed by the Highgate Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Registered Charity No. 274662. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1135

1 Bellow (6)
4 Haircutter (6)
9 Amusement park (7)
10 Stimulating effects (5)
11 Volcanic magma (4)
12 Barner (7)
14 Fear of light (11)
15 Fleet commander (7)
19 Open frame (4)
22 Shockingly vivid (5)
24 Spectral (7)
25 Maiden (6)
26 Enthusiastic (3,3)

DOWN
1 Polish (4)
2 Divine nourishment (5)
3 Fine gypsum (9)
5 Northern diver (3)
6 Rod-shaped bacteria (7)
7 Holiday town (6)
8 Island group (11)
11 Track circuit (3)
13 Lazareto (5,4)
15 Dull (7)
16 Beer (3)
17 Narrative song (6)
20 Sailing vessel (5)
21 Memorabilia (4)
23 Female deer (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1134
ACROSS: 1 Duck hawk, 5 Spot, 9 Showman, 10 Aisha, 11 Uppet, 12 Robin, 13 Order, 15 Ulster, 16 Leads, 18 Ovary, 20 Obese, 21 Thrifty, 23 Rill, 24 Reckless, 25 Downy, 1 Duster, 2 Coalahah, 6 Pose, 7 Trader, 8 Wantonly, 11 Unbroken, 14 Dyalasia, 25 Up, 17 Slayer, 19 Peel, 22 Ice

Tropical Law Reports

Football and racing news selected on page 33.

THE TIMES DIARY

Biffen's bloomer?

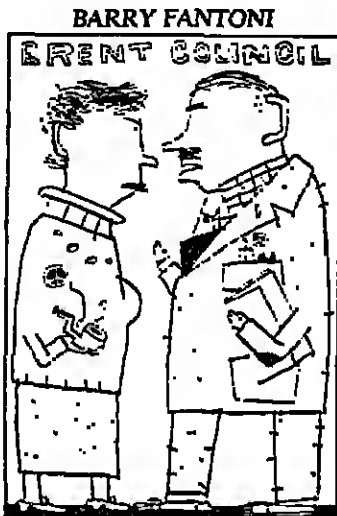
A very top tongue slipped in a Commons committee-room on Tuesday night. Turning down a request by the select committee on procedure for a debate on proposed procedural changes, John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said there was little point in MPs considering radical alterations "in the last few months of this Parliament".

Disestablished

Dublin's Irish Times - no relation - has chosen a new editor. Conor Brady, a journalist in his forties, succeeds the veteran Douglas Gageby, who moved the paper in time with a changing Ireland, from its erstwhile role as a bastion of the Anglo-Irish establishment to a position now more identified with the modern values of the republic.

Knight line

Gossip reaches me from Westminster that Ernest Saunders, the chairman of Guinness popularly known as "Deadly Ernest", was down for a knighthood in the New Year's honours list. Tories are now wondering whether, in view of the investigation into the company's takeover practices, the unfortunate Saunders will have his name scratched out again.



Living words

The doctor-poet Dannie Absc was delighted to find that copies of his new book, *Journals from the Ant Heap*, a selection of personal articles, appeared to have sold out at a big London bookshop - until on inquiry an assistant pointed him to the Natural History stack hulging with his oeuvre.

Unfuzzed

A little local difficulty at Walthamstow police station, in north-east London. Constable Sukhvinder Paul Singh Chohan has abandoned his police issue turban for short back and sides and regulation helmet. Far from rejoicing, his seniors, I understand, are one too pleased. A Sikh who loses his hair loses face (so to speak) within his community, and they fear that Chohan's decision - taken, he says, "because I want to be part of the team" - may affect the Met's attempts to recruit more Sikhs.

Big game hunt

Game show graduates are the latest phenomenon in the States. In Los Angeles, a three-hour course has been set up by former game show co-ordinator Mark Richard, teaching aspirant gamblers the art of passing questions for the big money TV quiz shows. A mere \$45 primes students on how to exchange banalities with their future TV inquisitors. I reckon some White House staff could take remedial lessons.

Old script

Let us hope for actor Ian Flintoff's sake that life does not imitate art. Flintoff, who has been selected by Labour to fight Devonport against David Owen, made his last appearance on stage in *A Pack of Lies*.

Home ground

Newham North East Labour party should watch out. For the next election, the Tories have just picked Peter Davis, head of home affairs at Central Office and the brains behind the blitz on "Jooney left" councils. One of Davis's main targets? Newham council, where Labour holds every seat.

Zero interest

Wildlife artist David Shepherd has devised a novel competition: he is inviting people to compete for the world record (first ever) for doing absolutely nothing. He believes that few people can remain immobile for more than four or five minutes, sitting on a stool before an audience and panel of judges. He has a motive, of course: to draw attention to the authorities all over the world who are doing nothing to save the rhino and other endangered species.

IBA's advertising conundrum

Winston Fletcher finds that the decisions on what is or is not political are puzzling

Yesterday's request by the Labour MP Frank Field for an investigation into government employment advertisements on television raises a dilemma that has been vexing the Independent Broadcasting Authority increasingly over recent months.

When is a political advertisement not a political advertisement? Why does the IBA permit British Nuclear Fuels to promote, however indirectly, the benefits of nuclear energy while prohibiting Greenpeace from advertising some of the risks? Why - perhaps above all - does the IBA accept huge privatization campaigns when privatization is a contentious political issue?

Political advertising is prohibited by Clause 9 of the IBA's code of practice, which at first sight seems uncompromisingly clear: "No advertisement may be inserted by or on behalf of any body, the objects whereof are wholly or mainly of a political nature, and no advertisement may be directed towards any political end, and no advertisement may have any relation to any industrial dispute. No advertisement may show partial-

ity as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.)

In the past the IBA has tended to apply Clause 9 rigorously, perhaps too rigorously. It once stopped *The Spectator* from advertising on television on the ground that it was a political publication. But of late its interpretation of Clause 9 seems to have softened. And in every case, doubtless inadvertently, the interpretations have favoured the government.

For example, it is hard to think of an issue more embroiled in political controversy than the future of nuclear energy. The IBA claims that British Nuclear Fuels' advertising merely promoted the company and invited people to visit Sellafield, so was non-political. How then can the authority reject a Greenpeace advertisement that simply pointed out that Chernobyl, before the explosion,

would have looked equally innocuous to visitors?

Or take another example. The government has just spent £8,000,000 on television promoting its Action For Jobs campaign. The unequivocal message is that the government is now actively dealing with unemployment - the issue that is far and away of greatest concern to the electorate. The Tories are themselves using Action For Jobs in their publicity, to show they have not turned a blind eye to the unemployed. Yet the IBA deems Action For Jobs advertising political.

The most contentious campaigns of all, in terms of long-term political impact, must be those for privatization. British Telecom spent £16 million in 1984 on its corporate advertising; British Gas in its pre- flotation and flotation marketing spent £41 million, of which a large proportion went on to television. All the major privatizations have of course been over-

subscribed. If BT, or the TSB, or British Gas had simply sought a straightforward public flotation it would have been unnecessary to seek such massive shareholdings, grossly wasteful to spend so many millions, and unnecessary to use television advertising.

It is not too fanciful to suggest that by next spring, when election time is high, there will be an army of some 10,000,000 new shareholders, an army that could not have been raised without television advertising.

Nor is it fanciful to suggest that the votes of this army of novice shareholders will be influenced by the fear that Labour might reclaim their share certificates. Nor, finally, is it fanciful to suggest that the government knows all this, which is why the corporations being privatized spent such vast sums on television advertising.

When is a political advertisement not a political advertisement? If influencing voting behaviour is not political, what is?

The author is a director of the advertising agency Delaney Fletcher Delaney.

Roger Boyes on the weakness underlying the Polish regime's new line

Warsaw Martial law is to law what martial music is to music: a distant, embarrassing cousin, brassy and over-loud, best forgotten. The Poles, despite their love of anniversaries, are trying not to remember that five years ago, on a raw December weekend, they were occupied by their own army, the legal niceties subordinated to the needs of a military timetable.

The images return anyway: the frozen military patrols gathered around hraziers; the curfew that abbreviated the days; the mechanical voice superimposed on telephone calls. "This conversation is being controlled"; the sudden disappearance not only of Solidarity's leaders but of those on the fringes of the movement; the hunger for information in a heavily-censored world.

Things are better now, of course; it could hardly be otherwise. There have been no Solidarity prisoners since September; the discordant clangour of martial law has disappeared; there is washing powder in the shops again and, for a price, oranges. Visitors to Warsaw are still a little surprised not to see Soviet tanks in the streets.

Martial law had two functions: to crush Solidarity and any direct competition to the communist party, and to allow General Jaruzelski to outflank the anti-reformist old guard in the state apparatus. The idea was to regain control over the pace of change.

It became clear to Jaruzelski's civilian advisers that there must be a post-Solidarity strategy. The legislative underpinning of economic reform - giving factories more independence and workers a greater say in management, and trying to make the economy profitable - was put into place. Prices, initially under the cover of martial law, were repeatedly increased without the government tumbling; that was taken as a sign of a return to normal. But the reform has made no major impact on the economy; what improvements there have been are the result more of random factors.

The most difficult and pressing problem is that of political change. As martial law was gradually dismantled, political concessions were at best timid; the cautious possibility, for example, for multiple candidates to stand in local council elections. Big gestures, such as the 1984 amnesty for political prisoners, were more a result of pressure than generosity. The amnesty did not seem to fit into any kind of programme: there were no moves to find new means of expression.

After suffering for years from muddled management, Poland is suddenly exposed to the changes now being pushed through in the Soviet Union intended to adapt the economy and, to a lesser extent, party policy, to the conditions of the late 20th century.

The Soviet Communist Party is having to prove itself by providing efficient managers, explaining itself more coherently and opening itself to criticism from outside the party. In Hungary, which is about to embark on a fresh stage in its mature and genuine economic reform, some thought is being given to the relationship between economic and political change. Poland has, fortuitously, reached the right position at the right time: it is brimming with ideas that

Jaruzelski's critics get an uneasy taste of freedom



would, under different circumstances, be called pluralism.

Union pluralism - that is, letting several unions operate - is ruled out because it would give a platform to Solidarity. Political pluralism - allowing anything that might resemble a party - would be an unacceptable challenge to the communists. But within these frontiers there is a grey zone which can be exploited.

The latest development is the formation of a social consultative council grouping 56 advisers (one was a counsel to Lech Walesa, others are outspoken champions of academic freedom, some are economic reformers) who have a licence to criticize the Polish leadership publicly.

Early next year, the authorities will establish a civil-rights ombudsman to protect citizens against bureaucratic abuse. The censor, in a recent interview with *The Times*, suggested that the boundaries of printed discussion should be relaxed. A new magazine, *Res Publica*, will try to create a forum for writers who would otherwise publish underground.

Alexander Krawczuk, the new Minister for Culture, wants to lure Polish artists and writers, currently working abroad or for underground publications, back into the mainstream. A sign of the times is that Tadeusz Konwicki, the novelist, is officially publishing a book for the first time in many years.

Poland is ahead of the rest of the bloc but all will soon have to consider something similar. An accommodation has to be reached between the needs of a modern, differentiated society and the demands of a monolithic state. In Hungary there is talk of reform clubs - discussion centres in which malcontents could be

openly critical. Even in glacial Czechoslovakia the press has been allowed to attack inefficient factory directors and lazy officials.

But the imposition of martial law has left people suspicious. Although Jaruzelski claims to be implementing the slogan of Hungary's Kadar, "He who is not against us is with us", the parallels with Hungary are slight. After the Soviet crushing of the 1956 uprising, there followed five years of repression and then very slow liberalization. Under these circumstances it was not difficult to secure the compliance of society and eventually to strike a bargain whereby Hungarians muzzle their political aspirations in return for economic prosperity (an exchange, it is said, of body for soul).

Jaruzelski acted against Solidarity only after 16 months, during which time a generation of Poles came to think that socialism could and would be overhauled. Nothing now on offer will ever measure up to the expectations of those to whom Solidarity was the ideal.

Most importantly, the current attempts at political diversification are not a logical consequence of a successful economic reform but rather a way of letting off steam before a fresh round of price rises and austerity moves.

Attempts to pluralize communism are thus born out of weakness rather than strength. Jaruzelski needs safety valves because he fears that the engine might become overheated. The social council is a typical contrivance of the post-martial-law era, simultaneously clever and irrelevant. Intellectuals are unhappy, so rather than put them in jail, give them access to the party leader: institutionalized access.

This fulfils several functions. It

ensures that the opposition is denied their brain power; it keeps the communist leadership informed about social currents, it keeps the party on its toes. And if all goes well, it splits the opposition into realists - those willing to talk to the authorities - and those unwilling to compromise. Of course, the council will enrich public debate, and that is why many respectable and respected people have joined it, despite fierce criticism from Solidarity theorists such as Adam Michnik.

But the council is also an admission of failure: why is parliament not fulfilling the role of this council? Or the Patriotic Front organization set up specifically to promote dialogue between communists and non-communists? Or the myriad other public committees which report to parliament? Instead of trying to make existing institutions more effective, Jaruzelski is creating new institutions: this too is a hallmark of the post-Solidarity period.

Some prominent dissidents, unconcerned whether the new policies are the result of conviction or weakness, are ready to exploit the cracks now opening up. Opportunism, they argue, should not be the monopoly of those in power. But the changes can be rolled back at any time. If few Poles seem interested in the new ideas, then Jaruzelski has carte blanche to impose unpopular decisions - a wage freeze, say - with the old methods, threatening force rather than engaging in elaborate persuasion. Martial law will not be imposed a second time but the present focus on pluralism in a communist state may prove to be little more than an interesting but short-lived interlude in Poland's jagged crisis-prone history of the past 40 years.

Ronald Butt The pulpit and the individual

If recent precedent is anything to go by, sermons will be preached from pulpits all over the country this Christmas on social justice, inner cities, the nuclear bomb and aid for the Third World, all neatly pinned to a text appropriate to the festival. The preaching will be well-intended. The poor, like the persecuted, are of course a Christian cause; nobody could think otherwise, whether judging from the New Testament or the tradition of the church.

But between the lines of much of the preaching there will be a set of assumptions resting on the proposition that what should concern us most is the moral guilt of a society so obsessed with materialism that it is failing to take collective social action. Congregations are less likely to receive a message illuminating the responsibility of the individual.

To find this a great failing is not to say that morality can only be individual. The extreme individualists who enjoy asserting that there is no such thing as collective morality, and that morality is by its nature individual, undermine their own cause. Their dogmatism is an understandable reaction against the opposite and prevailing dogmatism which works on the assumption that the only real morality is collective, and that the state, or the community, is its guardian.

But the counter-heresy of the individual as the exclusive source of moral responsibility; and of the state as properly responsible for no more than defence, law and order and help for those at the bottom of the pile, is equally fallacious. Since the beginning of our civilization, communities have tried through their governments to provide remedies for social needs and grievances. Humanity has a shared if limited conscience, as well as the consciences of individuals, and it rightly leads to collective action to help the poor and protect the vulnerable.

Yet the duties of the community are commonly preached with much more extended implications than this. It will be assumed that the state should spend on good causes but nothing will be said about how the money for spending is to be made.

The materialism of a consumer society will be denounced but not defined. Yet some of the excesses of silly materialism arise precisely because the state leaves the individual no scope for providing for the serious things that matter to every family, and materialism has also improved the lot of everyone, including the poor.

Above all, the failure of the church is to be so preoccupied with the conscience of society as to seem to forget that the conscience of the individual, which may have to be invoked against society, is the ultimate arbiter of human behaviour. There is a failure to

offer clear and uncompromising guidelines for the behaviour of individuals who in the aggregate determine the nature of a society. The church often seems too preoccupied with the consequences of problems than with their prevention.

It agonizes about whether to remarry divorced people in church but can seldom be heard preaching the indissolubility of marriage or responsibility of the individual to preserve it. It speaks of equal opportunities and worries about women priests. But would it dare to assert that mothers have no higher responsibility than to give their own time, if they possibly can, to look after their own children in their homes? (To the angry feminists' protest, Why not the father? My reply is, All right, but he usually isn't so good at it.)

Similar questions have lain at the heart of our difficulties with industrial relations. The trade unionist's undeniable right to withhold his labour as a safeguard against exploitation has been perverted into a claim to do work uneconomically, even to be paid for doing ooo-jobs which is a fraud against society as a whole and the poor, just as much as "insider" trading cheats shareholders.

Some of these economic truths have been learned in recent years, yet it does not seem that it has infused the clergy with a revived interest in preaching the responsibility of the individual. Now, however, the threat of Aids offers them a new reminder that their business is with individual conduct, and with trying to move individuals' hearts and minds.

There is an argument that the communication of this disease is principally to do with promiscuity as such, heterosexual as well as homosexual, rather than being especially, though not exclusively, passed by practices which are more usually homosexual. The evidence does not seem entirely clear. But what is not in doubt is that it has initially been conveyed to the West principally by practices which until now have been regarded as morally wrong but which, in our prevailing climate of fear, even the churches have feared to censure; and that it spreads by promiscuity of all sorts.

Yet what human society has ever lived without its rules and taboos - usually based on some perfectly rational distinction between the clean and the unclean - and without some absolutes? Our society has asserted that there are no taboos and no absolutes but only human convenience, and the churches have tried to live with the damage as best they can.

If they really wish to be heard attentively they will have to speak again to the individual with whom, as the facts of life are increasingly teaching us in many more matters than Aids, ultimate responsibility really lies.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Sinless songs of Patpong Road

"We may be a lot poorer than Thailand," a Burmese told me, "but at least we're not the harem of the East."

Yes, Thailand has certainly gained the reputation of being a place where every sexual whim can be gratified in almost any currency along the wicked Patpong Road in old Bangkok. I had never been to Bangkok before. I might never go there again. So it seemed pretty important to me that in my one night there I should do something exciting which had nothing remotely to do with sex. And in the Thai Airlines in-flight magazine *Sawasdee* - which I have to say is the only airline magazine I have found worth taking from the plane - I came across a piece on jazz in Bangkok which seemed to offer a solution.

"Where can I find Bobby's Army?" I asked the hotel clerk, showing him the article. He looked up the address. "It is at the First Floor, The Car Park, Patpong Road," he said.

An unlikely address for a jazz pub, halfway up a car park in the vice street of Bangkok, and indeed none of the people who stopped to help us in Patpong Road knew about the car park. None of them cared about it, either. They were far more interested in getting us into clubs where we could see girls do most amazing things with their anatomy, and occasionally, as we would swing open to reveal girls, while simultaneously achieving a look of boredom.

"Sir, sir, come inside and see a woman with a fish," implored one impressario.

"Sorry, it's too degrading," said my colleague. "For the fish," I explained to the puzzled Thai. "Can you imagine what it's like for a fish to go home at the weekend and tell his family he's in a double act with a woman? That's disgusting," they'd say. "Well, the money's good," the fish would mumble, and I hope to go solo soon; I've got this little backing band I'm rehearsing with..."

The Thai obviously saw what we were getting at because he relented and showed us the way to the multi-storey car park and there on the first floor we pushed open a door marked Bobby's Pub and found ourselves, as magically as if in an old-fashioned mystery story, in a London pub full of polished

wood, beery smells and home-brewed jazz. Glasses of ale appeared at the ends of our hands and we sat down in front of the grand piano, which was a good place to sit because the piano had a foot-wide shelf built into it all round on which the customers could plonk their wallop, or wallop their plonk.

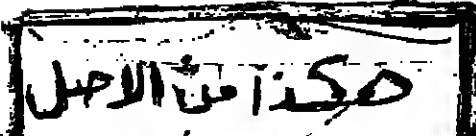
Almost everyone in the band was of a different nationality. There was an American guitarist, nearly inaudible, and a German banjoist, mercifully totally inaudible. The tenor saxophonist had a wrinkled Oriental smile and played nicely, the trumpeter was small and dark and reached for exciting high notes which he often hit, and sometimes thrillingly missed, and the clarinetist was the Australian defence attaché, by the name of Lachie Thomson. The leader was a very good trombonist, called Vic Luna, who sang like a Far Eastern Nat Gonella, and the whole effect was as if one had come across a hunch of Glenn Miller's boys having a night off.

They played tunes like *In The Mood*, *I'm Confessin'*, *Sheik of Araby* and *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, and several middle-aged white couples got up and jived as if the war would never end, and everyone clapped and cheered when Bobby, the owner, got up and sang *Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?* - which, having no tune or words in particular, is always a good song for an owner to sing. In London it would have been just a pub night, but there in Patpong Road I think it was the most innocent oasis in a wicked world that, I have ever come across.

In an odd sort of way, it was also very daring. In a street where strange sex is the norm, tapping your feet to the Australian defence attaché weaving his skillful way through *Christopher Columbus* must rank very nearly as kinky, or at least highly unconventional. See *Grown Men On Stage! Watch as They Daringly Blow Through Tubes!* Listen as They Grope for that Forbidden High C and Finally Take Part as They Parade Round the Club, Fully-Dressed, Playing *The Saints!*

And so we did, and then we came out into the cold reality of the concrete car park and the pub had vanished, just as they do in those mystery stories, leaving a nice warm glow behind. It still hasn't quite faded.

Eduardo Cue





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

SACRED NO LONGER

This week's agreement by the EEC farm ministers has been widely welcomed. For the British Government it is an undoubted political coup. For those who share the view - vividly revealed in *The Times* in recent weeks - that the CAP has become a profligate affront to the European ideal, it offers grounds for praise as well as hope.

Several notes of caution are, however, in order before the agreement can truly be termed the first step on the road to reform. First, will the statesmen of Brussels be able to stand the heat of the hustings back home? It is not only the two million cows whose death warrants were signed in Brussels this week who will have cause to regret the agreement on dairy and beef policies.

The farmers will be more vocal than the cattle, opposition politicians perhaps more vocal than the farmers. The Irish government, in particular, risks paying a heavy penalty in next spring's elections for its responsible stance in Brussels.

Many EEC farmers who invested in cattle in the period - not long past - when they were being encouraged to do so will have real cause now to feel hard done by. When a policy is allowed to run out of hand because no-one has the courage to control it, putting matters right is going to hurt.

Secondly, if the Brussels agreement is to herald a genuine return to a sane Community policy on agriculture, it

has to be realised that there is more pain unavoidably in store. If the two million cows are not to die in vain, the pressure has to be kept up.

The strategic decisions now taken should ensure that the stocks of butter and milk-powder stop growing, and prevent still larger mountains of beef carcasses. But that is not a certainty. The fertility of nature and the ingenuity of man are only too apt to burgeon in unforeseen ways, however carefully they seem to be pruned back.

Considerable celebrations were mounted in 1983, when public opinion was (like today) calling for progress on the CAP. A formula was reached which was proclaimed to solve the problem. It did not do so, and the joint curb now imposed on milk and beef will have to be closely monitored to see that it does not channel producers into building up other kinds of surplus. Sheep-farmers in Wales are already worried that cattle-farmers in milder climates may now turn to sheep-farming and undercut them.

The farm ministers do, none the less, deserve some congratulation. So do the governments that instructed them - particularly those, like the Irish and Germans, whose nerve might well have been sapped by the proximity of elections. And the British Government too deserves its full share of the credit. For Britain chaired the session, and without Mr Michael

Jopling's persistence in hanging on for a solution, the opportunity would almost certainly have slipped away.

Mrs Thatcher may have ruffled some feathers recently by her forthrightness, but the Community's leaders know that it was in a good cause. Unless the EEC can bring its agricultural subsidies under control, the Community will simply cease to be viable.

The Brussels negotiators still have to get down to working out what the decisions will mean to individual farmers. The compensations and inducements are said to be generous, but much will depend on how they are distributed. Quotas tend to be a clumsy instrument, but they seem to be the best available in the present crisis. It is not enough simply to crush the small producer and clear the field for the agricultural production-line. In principle, assistance to the weaker operators should be channelled through the regional and social funds, rather than the basic subsidy system.

The largest of the Community's food mountains by far is made of grain, not beef or butter. Finding a formula to control that must be a task for the Community under Belgian leadership, in the new year.

Whatever its limitations, the agreement reached this week shows that there is, after all, the goodwill in Europe to bring agricultural problems under control.

VIETNAM'S TIME OF TROUBLES

The honourable retirement of three gentlemen well past their seventieth birthdays would raise few eyebrows in most countries of the world. But when the country is Vietnam - a land where longevity in high office has become the norm - and when the new pensioners are that country's three most senior political leaders, superannuation takes on a different complexion.

The relegation to "advisory roles" of Communist Party General Secretary and head of state, Truong Chinh; of the Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong; and of a senior member of the Politburo, Le Duc Tho, removes from policy-making the closest surviving associates of Vietnam's legendary leader, Ho Chi Minh. It also ends a decade in which a unified Vietnam at peace with itself (if not with its neighbours) has been run by men more accustomed to running a war.

The passing of this triumvirate at Vietnam's delayed Communist Party Congress this week is a rare example of the congress - an institution common to the communist world as a whole - being used to renew the country's senior leadership without disgrace. Communist regimes, however, are not known for their disposition to sudden or thorough change of this kind, and it is a measure of the unhappy state of Vietnam 11 years after the communist victory that such radical measures were deemed

to be necessary. Certainly, there are few glimmers of hope in any area of Vietnamese life.

Agriculture is devastated; a sharp rise in the birth rate means there are more mouths to feed and food is short. Corruption and speculation surpass the levels reached in US-occupied Saigon. Vietnam's currency, devalued several times over, is almost worthless on the international market. Economic changes and counterchanges have confused the outlines of the permissible, as well as betraying conflicts within the leadership. Nor is outside aid forthcoming. Erstwhile friends - notably the Chinese and the United Nations - deserted when their beneficiary invaded neighbouring Cambodia.

Only the Soviet Union has stood by Vietnam for what were sound strategic reasons. But all the signs are that the Gorbachev leadership is at least as interested in the rational use of resources by its allies as it is in their revolutionary zeal and ideological purity. Moscow seems reluctant to underwrite Vietnamese mismanagement indefinitely, and Vietnamese leaders - to judge by their abject self-criticism and fulsome tributes to Soviet help in recent months - have been made well aware of this.

Changes in the thrust of Soviet foreign policy since Mr Gorbachev took office also

make Vietnam less of an asset than it was 10 years ago. Then, at loggerheads with China, Moscow needed its friendship with Vietnam. Now, with an improvement in relations with China in the forefront of Mr Gorbachev's foreign policy, the alliance with Vietnam is a liability. Only if Vietnam can be persuaded to withdraw from Cambodia - Peking's chief condition for improved relations with Moscow - could that liability be turned to advantage.

In recent months, as its economic and political situation has deteriorated, Vietnam has intimated a desire to end its international isolation. Its leaders, however, stepped in the legacy of Ho Chi Minh and in their years of combat against the French, the Americans and the Chinese, showed little appreciation of the link between their country's isolation and the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

The hope must be that the change of leadership announced yesterday will foster the flexibility in Hanoi that has been lacking since the occupation of Cambodia nearly eight years ago. The Cambodia conundrum has been a focus of local and superpower tension in the Far East for too long, and the long-suffering people of Cambodia, and of Vietnam, could stand to benefit most of all.

A GRASS-ROOTS REBELLION

When people of influence fail to stand against malignant causes, ordinary men and women will found their own resistance movement. That is what is now happening in the London borough of Haringey.

A group of parents there is fighting against the extremists in charge of the local council who have been promoting "positive images" of homosexuals in schools. The campaign against which the Haringey parents are making their stand is not covert. The borough has funded a "lesbian and gay unit" to manage it. This unit employs what are called outreach workers whose function is to go into schools to identify and even encourage children whom they diagnose as homosexual. It wishes to put instruction about homosexual practices into sex education and offers in-service training to teachers.

A letter from the Lesbian and Gay Unit, on official Borough Council paper, was sent to all schools last June stating that "new council policy within the education service is that lesbian and gay issues be addressed with the same vigour and clarity as other areas of oppression." Stating that the council has established a fund for "curriculum projects" to promote "positive images" of homosexuals from nursery schools upwards, the letter

stated that members of the unit "are wanting to meet heads of educational establishments...to talk with them about their current practices with regard to lesbians and gays."

How many heads felt free to throw this into the waste-paper basket it is impossible to say. Perhaps quite a few. But they are also under pressure from outside the schools - and sometimes from within them - to advance the same cause. Some "gay" teachers, indeed, have angrily abused and picketed the parents who were protesting.

The parents allege that they have been subject to abuse, to vandalism in their homes, to death threats and to such unpleasant experiences as being spat and urinated on. Most of the parents are from working class backgrounds. Many are from the Asian or West Indian or Irish Roman Catholic Communities whose religious principles are deeply affronted by what is happening. A Muslim mother states that she has been told by a Labour Haringey councillor that the Koran and the Bible need up-dating - which is hardly the business of the Haringey Labour Party.

But how legitimate is the parents' concern about the character of the "positive images" campaign? A cartoon "text-book" called "The Play

Book for Kids about Sex", available from the unit, includes an introduction of small children to homosexual relationships and could even be construed as conditioning children for sexual abuse. From the children's shelves of a public library, a 15 year old school girl obtained a book which is simply homosexual pornography. And the campaign, as described by its own advocates, is designed to subject the school curriculum to homosexual proselytising.

As it happens, most of the protesting parents are Labour voters. But they have come to believe that their own party has become a cover for the anti-democratic left which abuses the education of their children to undermine the family and democracy.

None of this, of course, could happen but for political funding by local authorities. The Haringey mothers wrote to Mr Neil Kinnock but got a five-line letter from his office saying he could not intervene. They have taken the point. Today the House of Lords is debating a private member's bill, introduced by Lord Halsbury, which would seek to forbid local authorities for giving financial aid for the promotion of homosexuality. It is of riveting interest to the mothers of Haringey.

Rights and wrongs on human rights

From Lord Scarman and others
Sir, In your leading article headed "Judging rights" (December 12) you express opposition to the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill which would enact as part of our law those provisions of the European Convention which set out the rights and freedoms protected by the Convention. You conclude that under existing law there is no evidence of risk to our liberties sufficient to justify subordinating our law to an overriding power of the judges to interpret the ringing abstract declarations of the Convention "at their own discretion."

Your conclusion, with respect, is unsound. It is eloquently worded but grossly flawed.

First, there is plenty of evidence that existing British law is an insufficient protection of the liberties which by ratifying the Convention we have obliged ourselves in international law to protect. Your article admits as much in its third and fourth paragraphs.

Second, the Human Rights Bill, if enacted, would not subject us to a power of judges to interpret its provisions at their own discretion. Faced with the statute, our judges would have to interpret it - exactly as they have to interpret other statutes. Statutory interpretation is a recognised judicial process, not an exercise of arbitrary judicial power.

Third, the European Convention is not a series of "ringing abstract declarations". It was largely drafted by two English lawyers, one of whom was a skilled draftsman and the other later became a Lord Chancellor. Admittedly it is couched in the language of principle. But so are many important British statutes (do you recollect our own enacted Bill of Rights?).

Judges by their training in the common law are experienced in the development of principle. And they have no difficulty in distinguishing principle which is justiciable from policy which is not; do you recollect the approach of our judges (gently criticised in your columns, following the decision of the House of Lords in the GCHQ case) to the problem of national security?

May we ask you, Sir, to give the Human Rights Bill a fair wind as it seeks a passage through the uncertain waters of parliamentary scrutiny?

Yours sincerely,
SCARMAN,
BROXBORNE,
EDWARD GARDNER,
Rights Campaign,
60 Chandos Place, WC2.

Fears unallayed for mentally ill

From Mr John Lane
Sir, For some time, St Mungo and other agencies concerned with alleviating homelessness have tried to call attention to the issues raised by Dr Waller (November 22) and Mr Jacobs (November 27). We fear a crisis of appalling magnitude will soon be looming in our large cities.

A high percentage of the residents in our main hostel come in from the streets with chronic psychiatric problems for which they receive no treatment. Whether on the streets or in hostels, they are unable to register with GPs - the principal route to the NHS range of treatments - because their homelessness appears to be coupled with an array of anti-social habits. People who are ill are thus condemned to deteriorate completely before there is any hope of intervention.

A man we recently admitted came to us from a green-belt psychiatric hospital via a bed-and-breakfast hotel. The delays in processing his DHSS claim left him unable to pay his rent. He spent several nights sleeping rough, with neither money nor food, before a passer-by referred him to us.

We took him to a walk-in medical centre whose staff contacted the hospital for details of his diagnosis on grounds of confidentiality, it refused to divulge them. The man had a complete breakdown, and is now hospitalised.

Two of our staff have just returned from New York, which has afforded them a glimpse of the future. The scale of homelessness amongst mentally-ill discharges is acute and appalling: it is estimated they number 30,000. A quarter of the patients discharged went to "unknown destinations".

Our fears are heightened rather than allayed by Baroness Trumpington's contribution (December 9). A "range of provision" for in-patients is necessary, but who will provide the variety of services offered by the best hospitals when they close? The main providers all construe their priorities and responsibilities differently.

In America, ex-patients find the services in the community to be fragmented, uncoordinated and inaccessible due to departmental bickering over responsibilities. All the evidence suggests that having carefully watched the US experience, we in Britain are studiously duplicating every callous error.

With 1987 designated the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, dare we hope for more action than just another commemorative postage stamp?

Yours
JOHN LANE, Director,
St Mungo Community Housing Association Ltd,
217-221 Harrow Road,
Paddington, W2,
December 10.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 18 1840
Napoleon's coffin was brought in the French warship, *La Belle-Paule*, to Cherbourg from St Helena, where he had died on 5 May, 1821. There it was transhipped, and in its passage up the Seine to Paris was saluted at every stage by crowds.
Our Correspondent at the Invalides did justice to the impressive ceremony in the chapel, but took a more critical view of the scenes outside.

FUNERAL OF NAPOLEON

(From a Correspondent.)
PARIS, Dec 15.
The cold was not a bitter foe for those to whom tickets had been allotted for the tribunes that occupied each side of the avenue leading up the esplanade of the Invalides from the quay to the great gate; but the crowd bore the biting frost with patience, for it was decidedly one of the very best positions for seeing the funeral procession of the long line of statues of their greatest warriors, struck us as peculiarly French - perhaps we mean inconsistent. A propos of the long line of warrior statues that lined the avenue: the idea struck us as good. These heroes seemed placed there to receive the last, and perhaps greatest, warrior of the nation, as he was restored in death to his country. They may have been counselled, however, which we have not seen, but this suggestion of warriors, from Charlemagne and Clovis down to the last Generals of the Empire, placed upon the passage of the Emperor to salute him as he passed to his last home, was well conceived.

But why place Napoleon in his Imperial robes, at the end, to greet himself? ... Till the procession really reached this spot the hours of impatient waiting were long; the distance, however, which we have already traversed, whiled away the time of some, and the cannon fired from the first court of the Invalides every quarter of an hour seemed to warm the hearts, if not the limbs, of others. For our parts, the cannon had one great advantage: the rich clouds of rolling smoke that they sent forth hid from our eyes for a time the bare poles and skeleton scaffolding of the half-draped spars that were announced in the programme as a triumphal funeral canopy. The bare poles, which we have already traversed, whiled away the time of some, and the cannon fired from the first court of the Invalides every quarter of an hour seemed to warm the hearts, if not the limbs, of others. For our parts, the cannon had one great advantage: the rich clouds of rolling smoke that they sent forth hid from our eyes for a time the bare poles and skeleton scaffolding of the half-draped spars that were announced in the programme as a triumphal funeral canopy. The bare poles, which we have already traversed, whiled away the time of some, and the cannon fired from the first court of the Invalides every quarter of an hour seemed to warm the hearts, if not the limbs, of others. For our parts, the cannon had one great advantage: the rich clouds of rolling smoke that they sent forth hid from our eyes for a time the bare poles and skeleton scaffolding of the half-draped spars that were announced in the programme as a triumphal funeral canopy.

Child abuse cases

From Ms J. Temkin and Professor G. J. Zelikoff
Sir, Your leader of December 2 comes down too emphatically and prematurely against Professor Glanville Williams's suggestion (feature, November 25) that child victims of sex offences should be interviewed by an independent professional before the trial and the interview pre-recorded and then shown to the jury.

You are dismissing the idea now as summarily and superficially as did Professor Williams's colleagues on the Criminal Law Revision Committee some 20 years ago.

Of course there are major issues involved, but the trauma for child witnesses, even under the proposals in the Criminal Justice Bill, should not be underestimated. It would not be possible for such a change to be introduced without the fullest debate and consideration, but the children who fall victim to such crimes deserve at least that.

There is now a good deal of experience of such arrangements in other jurisdictions, notably in the United States, where there is at least as much sensitivity to the rights of defendants as here. The Government should certainly initiate a searching study of these procedures without delay. Our present criminal procedure is not so perfect that radical changes are unthinkable.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER TEMKIN,
(London School of Economics),
GRAHAM ZELIKOFF,
Faculty of Law,
Queen Mary College,
Mile End Road, E1.

Future of shipping

From Captain W. M. Douglas (Merchant Navy)
Sir, As the British Merchant Navy moves into terminal decline it is reported in *The Times* today (late edition, December 11) that Mr J. Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, cannot offer incentives to maintain a viable fleet.

In regard to the Government's lack of a shipping policy, many British seafarers do have sympathy for British shipowners operating under flags of convenience. However, at times of hostility such ships cannot be requisitioned by the British Government. What financial incentives will then have to be made to the owners to place these ships under British Government control?

And many of my British colleagues, finding employment under foreign flags would like to ask where we stand. In times of hostilities and an expanded merchant fleet, will our employment be based upon "market forces" or conscription?

Yours faithfully,
W. M. DOUGLAS,
Croftside,
Beechen Cliff Road,
Bath, Avon,
December 11.

Scale of fish sales

From Mr John Green
Sir, Incomes of between £500 and £1,000 a week (Spectrum, December 12) are by no means unusual in the fishing industry. Most crews are employed on a share basis and their income is based on this principle.

Of more concern to the public should be the way public money is invested in the catching side of the fish industry. This would be acceptable if the end result were to be more fish for the British consumer.

In fact more and more British-caught fish finds its way on to continental tables. This applies not only to Peterhead but to most of the ports in Great Britain. Buyers from France, Germany and Spain are offering prices at first-hand sales which far exceed those the home market will stand.

Recently published statistics indicate an increased percentage of disposable income being spent by continentalers on food. Sadly the reverse applies to the UK.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREEN,
Managing Director,
J. B. Green (Crouch End) Limited,
Fish, poultry and game dealers,
65 Wood Vale,
Muswell Hill, N10.

Terrorist murder

From Mr Ralph Hoarau
Sir, I refer to your article "Murder in terrorist backlash" (November 26), concerning the coroner's report on the assassination of the exiled Seychellois leader, Mr Gerard Hoarau. Summing up his report, the coroner, Dr David Paul, said:

This was the evil backlash of terrorist activity which involved people living in this country but was not the concern of citizens of this country.

My brother, now revered as a national hero by the Seychellois people, was an advocate of peace who was campaigning vigorously, with the support of the majority of the Seychellois, for the return of peace, democracy and justice in Seychelles.

All along, in spite of being imprisoned and forced into exile by Marxist dictator Albert René, my brother had always opposed

Keeping treasures

From Sir Arthur Drew
Sir, We have become used to great paintings fetching between £5 million and £10 million in the saleroom. But yesterday the Middleham pendant fetched £1.3 million (report, December 12). At that price it is unlikely that the present system can stop the export of this English medieval masterpiece.

Is it not time the system was changed or at least buffed up with additional money in the National Heritage Memorial Fund? An object like this should rest in a museum in England, where it can be enjoyed by the public.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR DREW,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
December 12.

Country of origin

From Mr A. A. Painter
Sir, The Conservative Parliamentary Group for European Reform express popular concern (letter, December 5) that the repeal of the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 will be detrimental to consumers in that it will no longer be necessary for imported goods to bear an indication of the country of origin. However, they misunderstand the requirements of that act and the likely effect of its repeal.

The Act requires that imported goods bearing a UK name or mark, or anything which may be taken as such, shall bear an indication of the country of origin. It has been generally ineffective because foreign goods not bearing a UK name etc are exempted and by virtue of the international production of consumer goods, it is often impossible to decide in which country a product is in fact made.

It is common for goods assembled in one country to be made entirely or partly from components made in one or more other countries. Any indication of the country of origin is likely, in those circumstances, to be misleading.

There is evidence to suggest that compulsory origin marking may actually work against the interests of British manufacturers in product categories where consumers believe the foreign product to be superior. But whether that is so or not, it will remain open to British manufacturers to voluntarily mark their goods with a statement of origin. The consumer may then reasonably assume that goods not so marked are imported.

It should be borne in mind that a false indication of origin is an offence against the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 which will be

Music on trains

From Miss Carol Illingworth
Sir, Henry Stanhope's support of buskers (feature, December 5) is most welcome. Britain, however, does not have a monopoly.

Some three years ago I travelled by train from Orange, New South Wales, to Sydney, and on this journey through the spectacular Blue Mountain range the passengers were entertained by a group of young musicians performing Australian folk songs and bush ballads. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that A. B. Paterson (Banjo Paterson, of "Waltzing Matilda" fame) was born within a stone's throw of Orange. I was unable to discover whether this was an isolated occurrence.

Would it not be delightful if BR were to take a leaf out of the Australians' book, and lay on "performing" trains for visitors to Britain? Shakespeare's songs on the Stratford train, sea shanties to coastal destinations, Elgar on the way to the Malverns, Scottish ballads and, of course, cellophane are visiting us, for example. Yours etc,
CAROL ILLINGWORTH,
2F Randolph Crescent, W9,
December 5.

unaffected by the Consumer Protection Bill

Origin marking is no longer a credible measure of consumer protection, nor is it a good example of the erosion of UK sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. PAINTER,
Lawmark,
Sussex Suite,
City Gate,
2-4 Southgate,
Chichester, Sussex,
December 5.

Music on trains

From Miss Carol Illingworth
Sir, Henry Stanhope's support of buskers (feature, December 5) is most welcome. Britain, however, does not have a monopoly.

Some three years ago I travelled by train from Orange, New South Wales, to Sydney, and on this journey through the spectacular Blue Mountain range the passengers were entertained by a group of young musicians performing Australian folk songs and bush ballads. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that A. B. Paterson (Banjo Paterson, of "Waltzing Matilda" fame) was born within a stone's throw of Orange. I was unable to discover whether this was an isolated occurrence.

Would it not be delightful if BR were to take a leaf out of the Australians' book, and lay on "performing" trains for visitors to Britain? Shakespeare's songs on the Stratford train, sea shanties to coastal destinations, Elgar on the way to the Malverns, Scottish ballads and, of course, cellophane are visiting us, for example. Yours etc,
CAROL ILLINGWORTH,
2F Randolph Crescent, W9,
December 5.

unaffected by the Consumer Protection Bill

Origin marking is no longer a credible measure of consumer protection, nor is it a good example of the erosion of UK sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. PAINTER,
Lawmark,
Sussex Suite,
City Gate,
2-4 Southgate,
Chichester, Sussex,
December 5.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 17: His Excellency Mr Ali Arshad and Mrs Arshad were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Jonkheer J.L.R. Huydecoper and Madame Huydecoper were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr Callisto Mutekenya M'koma and Mrs M'koma were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Malawi in London.

The Duchess of York this evening attended Christmas Carols with the Stars at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Leukaemia Research Fund.

Her Royal Highness was received by the President of the Royal Albert Hall (Sir Kirby Laing), the Founder-Director of the Fund (Mr Gordon Piller) and the President, Leukaemia League, of 365 (Lady Rose Nevill).

RECEPTION
Society's
Princess Margaret was present at a reception held in Sotheby's Bond Street Gallery yesterday after the presentation of 'The Story of Christmas' organized by the Proprietary Partnership in aid of the St John Ambulance Centenary Appeal and the Cheyne Centre for Spastic Children. The Chairman of Sotheby's and Mrs Thompson and the Chairman of the Estates Gazette and Mrs Wilson received the guests.

DINNERS
Royal Society of St George
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the Christmas dinner of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at the Mansio House. Mr William B. Fraser, chairman, accompanied by Mrs Fraser, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Sir Walter Bodmer, Director of Research of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Mr Alderman L. John Chalstry, Mr William Shand and the Rev Basil Watson. Others present included: Major-General Sir Dicky and Lady Barham, Lady Bodmer, Prince and Princess Carol of Romania, the President Governor of HM Tower of London and the Rev Basil Watson, the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and Mrs Harcourt, the President of the United Wards Club of the City of London and Mrs Norton-Laurie, the Chairman of the Mansio House and Mrs Harcourt, the President of the City of London and Mrs Norton-Laurie.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY
Sir Brian Batsford, 76; Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, 63; Herr Willy Brandt, 73; Sir Hugh Fraser, 30; Lieutenant-Commander I. E. Fraser, VC, 66; Mr Christopher Fry, 79; Miss Rosemary Leach, 51; Miss Annette Page, 54; Mr Marilyn Rees, MP, 66; Mr Keith Richard, 43; Lord Robert of Widdingham, 76; Major-General Sir Reginald Scobee, 86; Mr Joe Wade, 67; the Right Rev R. K. Williamson, 54.

LUNCHEON
Variety Club of Great Britain
The Duke of Kent was the guest of honour at the Variety Club of Great Britain's Christmas luncheon held at the Hilton hotel yesterday and, as President of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, accepted a cheque from the club. Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, accepted a cheque for the Police Dependents' Trust. Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Woburn House, Tavistock Square. Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the honorary officers and the secretary general were the hosts. Among those present were:

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Woburn House, Tavistock Square. Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the honorary officers and the secretary general were the hosts. Among those present were:

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 17: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, London SE26.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the opening of the Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art and Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Geoffrey Agnew will be held at St James's, Piccadilly, at noon today.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMESDAY BOOK, 1086-1986

Mr Robert Smith, Chairman of the National Committee for the 900th Anniversary of Domesday Book, 1086-1986, welcomed members of the national committee and members of the Memorial Society of Great Britain at dinner at the East India Club, London, on Tuesday night. The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, MP, accompanied by Mrs Weatherill, was the guest of honour. Among those present were:

Service dinner
Berkhamsted School CCF
Lieutenant-Colonel W.E. Glover presided at the annual dinner of Berkhamsted School Combined Cadet Force held last night at Troopers, Aldbury. The principal guests were Brigadier and Mrs R.S. Higson, Major and Mrs E.F.R. Scroggie, Dr and Mrs C.L. Tutty and the headmaster and Mrs C.J. Driver.

Appointments
Legal
Lord Justice Woolf to be Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Legal Education, in succession to Lord Justice Lawton. Mr Giles Charles Fielding Forester and Mr David Christian Pitman to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit. Judge Medd, QC, and Mr Charles Potter, QC, to be part-time Special Commissioners of Income Tax. Mr Gareth Williams, QC, to be Leader of the Wales and Chester Circuit from January 1.

Micklefield School
Mr Eric Reynolds has been appointed Headmaster of Micklefield School, Seaford, in succession to Mrs Margaret Payton, who retires in the summer of 1987.

Rendcomb College
Mr John Tolpitt has been appointed Headmaster of Rendcomb College, Cirencester from September 1987. He succeeds Mr Roger Medill, who is retiring after 16 years as headmaster.

Other appointments include:
Viscount Boyd of Merion to be Chairman of the Save the Children Fund. Mr John Parry to be National Governor for Wales of the BBC.

Jim in a double fix

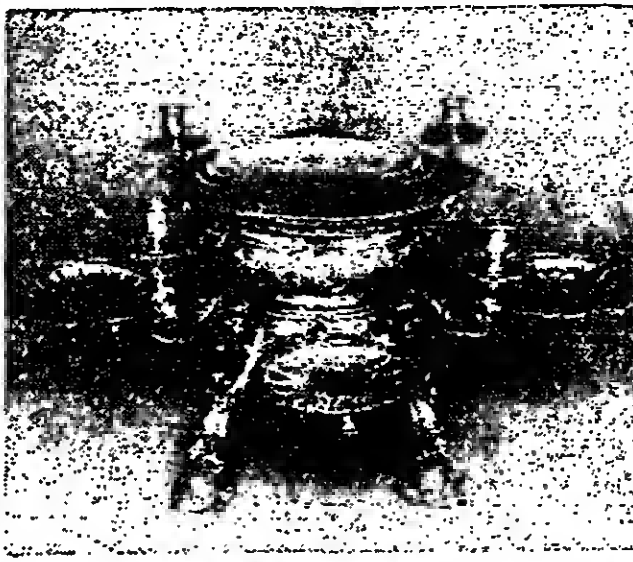


Tête à tête: Jimmy Savile, the television personality, in gold lamé tracksuit and running shoes, met his likeness at Madame Tussaud's in London yesterday. The new waxwork was sculpted by Steve Swales. (Photograph: John Manning)

Sale room Record for silver ornament

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A magnificent silver *epergne* made by Paul de Lamerie in the 1790s became the most expensive single item of English silver ever sold at auction when it reached £770,000 (unpublished estimate £500,000-£750,000) at Christie's yesterday.



The lavish *epergne*, which sold for a record £770,000 at Christie's yesterday.

Lamerie, the Huguenot silversmith, is looked upon as the greatest British master of the art and the *epergne*, with its dishes and candelabra arms, gives full reign to his rococo genius.

He made very few of them. This one was designed for the Earl of Mowbray, one of his best clients, and had passed to the Portarlington family by marriage; it was sent for sale yesterday the Earl of Portarlington and his brother, the Hon John Dawson-Damer. It was bought by Jacques Koopman.

Only three other Lamerie *epergnes* have been seen at auction this century. The last cost £250 at Christie's in 1947 and was bought by an Indian prince to give to the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, as a wedding present. The highest previous price was £1,800 in 1919.

Christie's silver sale proved highly successful, with a total of £1,174,833 and seven per cent unsold. A German red glass pilgrim bottle mounted in silver-gilt in Augsburg around 1690 secured £25,300 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) while a plain Lamerie inkstand of 1730 made £16,500 (estimate £6,000-£8,000).

Christie's sale of decorative arts from 1880 to the present day, in contrast, proved unusually unsuccessful. There was a total of £134,404 but 54 per cent was left unsold and this figure represented a large number of lots, rather than one or two expensive items.

At Phillips, teddy bears were the big attraction of the day. Mr G.L. Sturm, a collector and dealer from Cincinnati, Ohio, spent £3,080 (estimate £1,500-£2,000) for a Steiff blonde plush teddy in good condition, though his growler is reported "inoperative". A worn Steiff plush teddy that had only been expected to make £700-£900 also sold to Mr Sturm at £2,200.

OBITUARY PROFESSOR HARRY JONES

Important theoretical physicist

Professor Harry Jones, FRS, who died suddenly on December 15 at the age of 81, was one of the world's leading solid-state physicists.

Born on April 12, 1905, at Pudsey, Yorkshire, he studied physics at Leeds University and later did research at Trinity College, Cambridge, under Professor R. H. Fowler. In 1930 he became a research assistant in the physics department at Bristol.

In 1938 he went to Imperial College, London, as Reader in Mathematics and from 1946 to 1972 was Professor there (head of department 1955-70). From 1970 to 1972 he was pro-rector.

On retirement he continued working, as senior research fellow, until 1981. He was elected FRS in 1952.

Jones's most influential contributions to theoretical physics concerned the interpretation of the electronic properties of solids. This work had its origins in his studies at Bristol in the 1930s and involved co-operation with Nevill Mott (now Sir Nevill, Nobel Laureate in Physics).

His most original work concerned the influence of the Fermi surface (the region in momentum space enclosing quantum states occupied by electrons) on alloy structures (Hume-Rothery rules), diamagnetic susceptibility, galvanomagnetism and soft X-ray emission spectra.

As a result he published in 1936, with Mott, *The Theory of the Properties of Metals and Alloys*, which has remained a classic.

During the post-war period he founded, in the mathematics department of Imperial College, a school of solid-state theory that flourishes to this day.

After his retirement he turned his attention to gas dynamics, a subject on which he had first collaborated with Sir Geoffrey Taylor, FRS, during the war. He wrote a number of original papers on the dynamics of spinning detonation waves, on the mechanism of vibrating flames, and on the generation of sound by flames.

Jones was modest and kind. A true Yorkshireman, and more especially a true Pudsey man, he had a life-long love of cricket, especially when his team won.

He is survived by his wife, Molly, and by their son and two daughters - the elder of whom, Mrs Angela Rumbold, is MP for Mitcham and Minister of State in the Department of Education and Science.

MR GORDON RAY

Mr Gordon N. Ray, the American literary scholar who, from 1963 to 1985, presided over the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, directing its fellowship programme for science and the arts, died on December 15, at the age of 71.

Gordon Norton Ray was born in New York on September 8, 1915, and educated at the University of Indiana and at Harvard. His early career on the faculty there was interrupted by the war, for which he enlisted as an apprentice seaman in the US Navy. He was later commissioned and saw a good deal of active service, mainly in aircraft carriers in the Pacific where he had seven battle stars to his credit.

On demobilization he returned to scholarly work with great energy and determination, publishing his four-volume edition of Thackeray's letters and papers in 1945-6, to be followed by the two volumes of his biography of Thackeray, *The Uses of Adversity* (1955) and *The Age of Wisdom* (1958).

His interest in H. G. Wells led to the publication (with Leon Edel) of *Henry James and H. G. Wells* (1958) and, later, *H. G. Wells and Rebecca West* (1974). Both drew on the collections of the University of Illinois, where Ray was Professor of English from 1946 to 1960, latterly serving also as Vice-President of the University; and where, under his aegis, the university library was greatly expanded, becoming one of the most important in the country.

He moved from Illinois to New York in 1960, to join the Guggenheim Foundation, where he took over as President in 1963. The management of one of the most prestigious of American learned foundations is a very demanding post, but Ray found time to keep up many of his scholarly interests, to be attached to the graduate school of New York University as a professor, and to be heavily involved in the direction of several other learned institutions.

Among these was the Pierpont Morgan Library, which staged two exhibitions from his personal collection, on which were based the lavish catalogue-monographs *The Illustrator and the Book in England 1790-1814* (1976) and *The Art of the French Illustrated Book* (1982).

Ray built up an outstanding private library in his fine apartment overlooking the East River. The collection was exceptionally strong in many areas of 19th-century English literature. In later years his interests turned more to illustrated books, and he bought widely and presciently in an originally underestimated field.

He was generous in allowing access to his collections to scholars who had won his approval, and he gave a number of major lectures which emphasized to university libraries in the United States the importance of building up and maintaining their rare book collections. Recently he had given many of his own books to the Pierpont Morgan Library.

Ray was a man of solid and authoritative presence, and of considered and consequential speech, who managed by strict routines of domestic life, administrative work and foreign travel to keep up his reading in his chosen areas of study with remarkable thoroughness.

He was well known in Britain both to fellow scholars and to the book trade, and was elected Lyell Reader in Bibliography at Oxford for the year 1984-5.

He was unmarried.

MR MAURICE HANDFORD

Maurice James Handford, a conductor who was particularly well-known in the north of England, died on December 16, aged 58. He was a sound interpreter of 20th century music and particularly effective in choral and other large-scale works.

He was born on April 29, 1928, at Salisbury, and studied at the Royal Academy of Music, with the horn as his main subject. From 1949 to 1961 he played that instrument in Sir John Barbirolli's Hallé Orchestra.

Barbirolli encouraged him to take up conducting and in September 1961 he became conductor of the Royal Academy's First Orchestra initially as Barbirolli's associate. He began with some of the orchestra's industrial concerts.

In 1962 he was given charge of the first Hallé performance of *Carmine Burana*, in which he was able to demonstrate his special ability in choral works. The following year he was made the orchestra's associate conductor, and was assigned by Barbirolli much of the modern and difficult repertoire.

In 1970, on the death of Barbirolli, he conducted *The Dream of Gerontius* in his mentor's memory. Although he did not succeed Sir John as conductor of the Hallé he continued to conduct the orchestra in works requiring his particular talents, such as *Delius's Mass of Life*. From 1970 to 1974 he was staff conductor with the City of Birmingham Orchestra and from 1971 to 1975, conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic in Canada.

He was an excellent orchestral trainer, and was connected with both the Royal Northern School of Music in Manchester and the RAM in London. His last appearance was with the Academy orchestra two weeks ago, in a concert which included the Vaughan Williams "London" Symphony.

His two marriages ended in divorce. There is one son from the second.

SIR RICHARD DENBY

Sir Richard Denby, who died on December 16, aged 71, was president of the Law Society in 1977-78 and a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Richard Kenneth Denby was born on March 20, 1915, and educated at Ackworth School and Leeds University, where he took a first in Law. He was admitted solicitor in 1937, taking first class honours and the Clifford Inn Prize in the Law Society finals.

He joined the Bradford firm of A. V. Hammond and Co where he was to spend most of his working life. He retired recently as senior partner.

When war came he was commissioned in the Green Howards and served at Allied Forces Headquarters in North Africa, at the War Office and as assistant military secretary at Northern Command. He was mentioned in despatches and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Denby was an ebullient, outgoing character, well-versed in public relations, and his year's presidency brought the affairs of the Law Society into the public eye to a far greater extent than they had been before.

His wife, Eileen, whom he married in 1939, died in 1974, and he is survived by a son and two daughters.

Forthcoming marriages

- Mr M.R.C. FitzRoy and Miss C.A. Garnett. The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Lord and Lady Edward FitzRoy, of Norton House, Norwich, Norfolk, and Cornelia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Garnett, of Quakers' Orchard, Pensilke, Surrey.
- Mr S.W. Tait and Miss J.A. Saunders. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Tait, of Richmond, Surrey, and Jessica, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Saunders, of Weybridge, Surrey.
- Mr G. Thompson and Miss M.J. Muncaster. The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Thompson, of Burnston, North Yorkshire, and Miranda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Muncaster, of Clowds Hill, Lynchmere, Haslemere, Surrey.
- Mr R. Underwood and Miss W. Blanshard. The engagement is announced between Rory, eldest son of Mrs Anne Underwood and the late Mr J.A. Underwood, of Barnard Castle, Co Durham, and Wendy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Laurence S. Blanshard, of East Hutton, Grimby, South Humbershire.
- Mr A.O.M. Wadsworth and Miss S.J. Leslie. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr and Mrs V.M. Wadsworth, and Sophia, daughter of Mr M. Leslie, of Westernham, Kent, and Mrs C. Leslie, of Cowden, Kent.
- Mr W. Walpole and Mrs L.R.J. Watts. The engagement is announced between Bill Walpole, husband of the late Phyllis Walpole, Hamels Park, Buntingford, and Lavender Watts, widow of Major A.G. Watts, The Dorset Regiment, The Barrs Cottage, Little Horstead, Hertfordshire.
- Mr A.S. Machay and Miss F.R. Neal. The engagement is announced between Richard John Alban, younger son of the late Mr T.A. Long and Mrs L.M. Long, of Westhaven, Angus, and Heather Elizabeth, younger daughter of the late Mr A.E.J. Wills and Mrs H.G. Wills, of Falmouth, Cornwall.
- Mr C.P. Mead and Miss G.M. Davenport. The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs P.W. Mead, of Blackheath, London, and Gwyneth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W.C.A. Davenport, of Norwich, Norfolk.
- Mr A.B. Moore and Miss L.S. Churchley. The engagement is announced between Antony, son of the late Mr H. Moore and Mrs J. Jago, of Ashford, Kent, and Lynn, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.B. Churchley, of Hythe, Kent.
- Mr P.S. Phillips and Miss O.L.C. Lloyd-Jacob. The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mrs
- Patricia Witchell, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Mr Nigel Phillips, of Deal, Kent, and Cho, younger daughter of Mrs Clare Lloyd-Jacob, of London, and Mr David Lloyd-Jacob, of New York.
- Mr R.D. Fears and Miss J.K. Johnson. The forthcoming marriage is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.N. Fearn, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Judy, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs E. Johnson, of Windesham, Surrey.
- Mr J.M.C. Griffiths and Miss J.S. Edgcombe. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Griffiths, of Yarnton, Oxfordshire, and Jenny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Edgcombe, of Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire.
- Mr E.J.A. Long and Miss E.E. Wills. The engagement is announced between Richard John Alban, younger son of the late Mr T.A. Long and Mrs L.M. Long, of Westhaven, Angus, and Heather Elizabeth, younger daughter of the late Mr A.E.J. Wills and Mrs H.G. Wills, of Falmouth, Cornwall.
- Mr A.S. Machay and Miss F.R. Neal. The engagement is announced between Richard John Alban, younger son of the late Mr T.A. Long and Mrs L.M. Long, of Westhaven, Angus, and Heather Elizabeth, younger daughter of the late Mr A.E.J. Wills and Mrs H.G. Wills, of Falmouth, Cornwall.
- Mr C.P. Mead and Miss G.M. Davenport. The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Brigadier and Mrs P.W. Mead, of Blackheath, London, and Gwyneth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W.C.A. Davenport, of Norwich, Norfolk.
- Mr A.B. Moore and Miss L.S. Churchley. The engagement is announced between Antony, son of the late Mr H. Moore and Mrs J. Jago, of Ashford, Kent, and Lynn, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.B. Churchley, of Hythe, Kent.
- Mr P.S. Phillips and Miss O.L.C. Lloyd-Jacob. The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mrs

Bedlinen • presents • delivery for Christmas • Toys • presents • Upholstery • presents • Furniture

Choose from our extensive range of dining tables and chairs. Order by 20th December 1986 and we'll deliver in time for Christmas*

Dining tables from as little as £90
Dining chairs from £27.50
Shown above - Studio side chair £85
60" diameter Ash Table £460, seats 8

*Free delivery to any Greater London address

THE CONRAN SHOP

Everything you need for stylish entertaining this Christmas

77-79 FULHAM ROAD LONDON SW3 6RE 01 589 7401
AMERICAN EXPRESS • VISA • ACCESS • STORECARD

Journalists reject Telegraph offer

By Tim Jones

Journalists on *The Daily Telegraph* last night unanimously rejected the company's terms for moving out of their distinctive art deco listed building in Fleet Street to a new high-technology future in a development on the Isle of Dogs, east London.

In a stormy meeting, the 200 journalists decided not to co-operate with the company over the operation of new technology regarded as essential to the survival of the newspaper, which lost £2 million in the six-month period that ended on September 30.

Feelings were running so high that a motion from the floor, expressed in far stronger language than that proposed by chapel (union branch) officials of the National Union of Journalists was also carried by a large majority.

Journalists felt the terms, which offer them a 5 per cent pay rise plus £1,250 a year for reporters and £2,250 for sub editors, with an additional 4 per cent increase when the company has completed its restructuring programme was "totally insufficient".

Some speakers at the closed meeting considered that the company was trying to change their traditional work practices and introduce them to direct computer inputting "on the cheap".

Others were intent on "teaching the company a lesson" because they believe management had reneged on a promise to give them a 5 per cent pay rise last February.

The meeting took place against the background of a company announcement that it was seeking hundreds of additional redundancies when it moves its editorial and business operations to the Isle of Dogs next year.

Senior management has said redundancies terms, equal to four weeks of pay for every year of service, would be withdrawn unless the company received full co-operation and continuity of production.

The move of printing operations to another site on the Isle of Dogs has resulted in 970 redundancies out of a London printing workforce of 1,630.

Under the new proposals, few of *The Daily Telegraph's* 300 NGA composers are expected to be retained.

Kinnock urged to back hard left

Continued from page 1

Settled to fight a safe Labour seat at the next general election, added: "The party should reply with the truth. They should tell people about the good things we are doing."

He continued: "The party leadership would do themselves and the party a lot of good if they defended Labour councils against Tory attacks."

His bitter criticism of Mr Kinnock follows a meeting in the Commons earlier this week where leaders of Labour councils in London, including Mr Grant, told party MPs they would not water down their policies.

Senior Labour MPs openly admit the harm done to the party's electoral hopes by activities of some left wing run authorities, and it was hoped the "loony left" bogey would be buried when Mr Kinnock urged councillors last month to avoid acts or statements which could be used against the party.

But the public statements of Mr Grant and his militant town hall colleagues are set to dash such hopes.

In his article, Mr Grant says Government ministers have singled out Haringey, Brent, Lambeth, Hackney and Manchester for special attention because they have been at the forefront of fighting cuts in services and jobs. The Tories also had an "overtly racist" strategy of trying to isolate black Labour council leaders.

"These councils are singled out for attack because their policies of fighting low pay, defending jobs and services, and tackling areas of grave disadvantage like pensioners, black and minority ethnic groups, women, and lesbians and gays are genuinely popular and build up support for Labour."

"We explained all this to John Cunningham... We told him the Tory attack was racist."

"But Cunningham got up in the House of Commons and talked about 'only 0.1 per cent' of Labour councillors being in the mould Tory ministers had described. If you work that out it means there are nine Labour councillors like that - no doubt I am one of them!"

Whoopers' contented winter



The Whooper swans at the Wildfowl Trust at Caerlaverock, near Dumfries, have proved to be so contented that even after the trust staff trap and ring them, they go back voluntarily into captivity via a special swan pipe.

Mr Jeff Black, a research officer, says ringing the Whoopers is part of a long-term population study to check on individual swans' progress and to report on their breeding success. The swans have been returning from Iceland to Caerlaverock for eight years and they stay until March.

This year, a record 144 birds arrived. "More than half the ones we recorded this year were new birds", Mr Black said yesterday. "They were probably last year's babies coming back".



Miner's wife in world's first triple transplant

Continued from page 1

Mrs Thompson was breathing with the aid of a ventilator and was said to be in a satisfactory condition. Her progress will be carefully monitored for any signs of rejection, and it will be some weeks before she will be able to leave hospital.

Mr Peter Campion, a spokesman for the East Anglian Regional Health Authority, said: "We have one of only a handful of centres worldwide that is capable of performing a combined operation of this kind, because of the expertise in heart-lung surgery at Papworth and the pioneering work of Professor Côté at Addenbrooks."

He said that such an operation was unlikely to be repeated for several years because of the rare combination of the woman's medical problems.

Mrs Jean Thompson, the patient's mother-in-law, said: "Davina is a very brave and determined woman and we are all very proud of her. She had asked to have a triple transplant even though she was well aware of the risks involved."

"She has been in and out of hospital for the last two-and-a-half years, but has been determined not to let it affect her

Letter from Gabon Yellow dinosaur beats the jungle

Libreville (AFP, Reuter) - Engineers have laid the last rail in a £2 billion line crossing the rain forest of Gabon.

The Trans-Gabon railway, which has been laid across 403 miles of some of the most difficult terrain on Earth, was started in 1974. It will be officially inaugurated on December 30 but is not expected to become operational until the middle of next year.

The consortium CCI Eurotrag was formed specially for the job by 19 firms from six countries - Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and The Netherlands.

For the past two years a huge yellow machine, called the "dinosaur" because of its size and ungainly appearance, has been beating a path at the rate of eight miles a month through the dense tropical rain forest laying 155-yard sections of rail.

The Italian-designed railway track-laying machine last month completed the second stage of the 400-mile railway, seven and a half months ahead of schedule.

President Omar Bongo is due to open the railway on December 30 - the thirteenth anniversary of the day he turned the first sod on the project.

The railway, one of the world's as well as black Africa's most ambitious civil engineering projects, links the isolated, mineral and timber-rich interior with the coast. It is one of the few railways to be built in recent years when many industrialized countries have been closing lines.

The Eurotrag group assembled a huge earth-moving fleet, including 150 bulldozers and 460 trucks, to batter a way through the forest and shift an estimated 160 million cubic yards of earth to cut a track through the rugged terrain.

The railway was built despite opposition from the World Bank, which considered the scheme economically unsound. Mr Bongo, who heads one of Africa's smallest but wealthiest nations, however, argued that it was the "spine" of the economy and a symbol of national unity and other aid donors, led by France and the European Community, stepped into the breach.

Work on the 190-mile second stage from Boué to Mr Bongo's hometown of Franceville started in early 1983, and in June 1984 the President brought forward the completion date by seven months to December 1986.

Eurotrag responded by bringing in extra workers and machinery and working an effective 10-hour day. More than 4,000 men from about 20 countries worked on the project.

The second stage passes through largely uninhabited territory, with few roads and only three access points to the railway, making logistics one of the main problems, according to M Jacques Cosani, the Eurotrag works director.

"Practically everything had to be imported and brought hundreds of kilometres up to the railroad," he said.

Nearly half the 500 expatriates involved in building the railway worked in transport, maintenance, repair and other support services.

Gabon's tropical climate, with rainfall averaging more than 100in a year, was another problem. Eurotrag, however, managed to work through the rains by postponing the more delicate embankment and other earthworks for the dry season.

Landslides caused by the poor quality, rain-soaked clay soil caused problems at several cuttings, according to Mr Robert Clark, the consulting engineer. "Good drainage was vital, otherwise the railway would soon be washed away."

In contrast to the first stage, only one major swamp had to be crossed, but 10 bridges had to be built over the River Ogooué and its tributaries.

Clearing the forest was not too difficult, as most of the trees had shallow roots and could be bulldozed.

Now that the railway is almost complete, economists are asking whether it will ever make a profit, especially as no decision has yet been made to build a terminal at Owendo port to handle manganese exports. Without it, however, the Trans-Gabon railway will find it difficult to cover even operating costs, analysts say.

Manganese will continue to be exported along a 47-mile cableway across the border into the Congo and then by railway to the port of Pointe Noire.

Mr Bongo still plans to build a third stage from Boué to Behinga in the north, in order to exploit that region's huge iron ore deposits.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a luncheon given by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonels, Household Division, at the Officers' Mess, Wellington Barracks, 12.45; later the Queen opens the renovated Headquarters of the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting at 23 Portland Place, 3.30.

The Prince of Wales, Trustee of the National Gallery, attends a dinner to mark the retirement of the director, Sir Michael Levey, at the National Gallery, 8.25.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends Carols for Save the Children at the Royal Albert Hall, 6.50.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,232

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

ACROSS
1 Stake for Pennsylvania girl of French extraction (8)
5 Back up new thrust in India (6)
10 Whether drunk or not, he's a top-liner (9-6)
11 A number of workers are in occupation (7)
12 County court has medical graduate confined (7)
13 Crazy act of mum, endlessly being the dog's body (8)
15 Deceived theologian about university exercises (5)
18 He is said to have a luxurious life - ironically (5)
20 Touch down by target - the Eiffel Tower, possibly (8)
23 Obstruction beside the isthmus? At least it's ornamental (7)
25 Problem created by woman rejecting hat at the outset (7)
26 Man probably surrounded by protracted noise in the Atlantic (4,6,5)
27 Note evidence and quit (6)
28 Damaged a hip? Lois are mended now (8)

DOWN
1 A man without sex appeal, small and delicate (6)
2 Illustrious as Chaucer's good women and Scott's Montrose (9)
3 Posed during a film, clothed in this material? (7)
4 A number Lawrence por-

Books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION
From Greece, by Larry Collins (Grator, £2.95)
Natives of my Person, by George Layman (Allen & Busby, £4.95)
The Chronicles of Marvin Manyshaped, by Sheri S. Topper (Corgi, £4.95)
The Maker of Heavenly Trousers, by Daniela Vera (Black Swan, £3.95)
The Warnings, by Julio Cortázar (Allen & Busby, £4.95)

NON-FICTION
A Matter of Principle, by Ronald Dworkin (Dorset, £2.95)
Conversion, A Philosophical Study, by David Lewis (Blackwell, £2.95)
Kobayashi in his Time, by E.H. Gombrich (Tate Gallery, £2.95)
Labour and the Left in the 1930s, by Ben Pinnett (Allen & Unwin, £2.95)
With the Empress Dowager of China, by Katherine A. Carl (KPJ, £7.95pb)

Books - paperback

Roads
London and South-east: A306: No entry from Roehampton Ln into Clarence Ln, with delays on Roehampton Ln and Rocks Ln. A13: Lane closures and delays between Massfield Gdns and Jenkins Ln. M40: Hertfordshire, Southbound closed between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm.

Wales and the west: M5: Middle and outside lanes closed at junction 14 (Thornbury), with northbound entry slip road closed. A38: Temporary lights NE of Honiton, resurfacing at Monkton. A5: Single line traffic between Gobowen and Chirk, Clwyd, N of Oswestry.

The Midlands: M5: Lane closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50), one lane only northbound between junctions 6 and 5 (Worcester N/Droitwich). A456: Congestion in morning and evening peak periods due to bypass construction at Bewdley. A5: Temporary lights and delays due to roundabout construction near Nuneaton.

The North: M1: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (Workshop/Rotherham). M6: Contraflow and delays between junctions 29 and 32 (Preston/M55). A19: Land restrictions and delays on the Sunderland bypass.

South: M8 Glasgow: Outside lane closed eastbound between junctions 17 and 15 (Kelvinside/Townhead). A82: Single lane traffic S of Invergarthy. A97: Single lane traffic with temporary lights on S side of Banff.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

Births: Carl Maria von Weber, composer, Erlangen, Germany, 1786; Sir Joseph John Thomson, physicist, Manchester, 1856; Francis Thompson, poet, Preston, 1859; Paul Klee, painter, Munchenbuch, Switzerland, 1879.

Deaths: Antonio Stradivari, Cremona, Italy, 1737; Sir John Alcock, aviator killed when his aircraft crashed near Rouen, 1919; Bobby (R.T.) Jones, champion golfer, Atlanta, Georgia, 1971.

Christmas calls

Cheap-rate local, national and most international calls will be available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 6 pm on Wednesday, December 24 to 8 am on December 29 and from 6 pm on December 31 to 8 am January 2.

In Scotland the reductions will run from 6 pm Tuesday, December 23 to 8 pm Monday, January 5.

A three minute call from Britain to Australia will cost £2.11 instead of the normal £2.64 and a call from London to Edinburgh will cost 13p for three minutes instead of 26p (excluding VAT).

Christmas tree lights

People are often injured by careless handling of Christmas tree lights. Before using an old set, make sure that the correct 3 amp or 5 amp fuse is fitted. Check for cracked lampholders or damaged insulation on the wires. Where wires need to be joined, make sure connectors are used, not insulation tape. Do not touch the lights or try to replace a bulb until you switch off and pull out the plug. Never use a normal bulb in place of a failed fuse bulb which is marked in white.

The pound

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.22	2.11	
Austria Sch	21.20	20.90	
Belgium F	83.10	82.99	
Canada \$	2.04	1.95	
Denmark Kr	11.27	10.77	
France F	6.55	6.48	
Germany DM	2.36	2.34	
Greece Dr	228	226	
Hong Kong \$	1.15	1.14	
India Rupee	1.10	1.07	
Italy Lira	2030	1970	
Japan Yen	146	142	
Netherlands Gld	3.39	3.21	
Norway Kr	11.22	10.73	
Portugal Esc	200	192	
Spain Ptas	166.64	163.00	
Sweden Kr	10.35	9.98	
Switzerland Fr	2.535	2.525	
USA \$	1.485	1.425	
Yugoslavia Dnr	840	740	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 381.7
London: The FT index closed down 3.5 at 3,817.5

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Supplementary and social security benefit orders and regulations.

Lords (11): Debate on disposal of waste at sea. Local Government Bill, Second Reading.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Editor, The Times, One Victoria Street, London, E1 6DN.

You must have your card with you when you call on our service. If you are unable to telephone please call on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Information Service. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated period.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Portfolio Gold

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Thursday record your daily Portfolio Gold.
Add these to the published weekly dividend figure you have won on the Portfolio Gold.
If you wish to claim your prize for that week, and must claim your prize at the end of the week.

On the Times Portfolio claim card you can claim your prize for that week and the total for the week.
No claim can be accepted unless these instructions are followed.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Supplementary and social security benefit orders and regulations.

Lords (11): Debate on disposal of waste at sea. Local Government Bill, Second Reading.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Editor, The Times, One Victoria Street, London, E1 6DN.

You must have your card with you when you call on our service. If you are unable to telephone please call on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Information Service. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated period.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

WEATHER

A showery westerly airflow will cover the country, with minor troughs bringing some longer spells of rain. Eastern Scotland and NE England will have sunny spells and a few showers. Over western Scotland, N Ireland and NW England showers are likely to be frequent with hail and snow at times. Southern Britain will have a spell of wet weather during the morning; most places will become brighter by afternoon, though still with showers, especially in the W. Temperatures will be near the seasonal normal, but it will be windy in the N and W. Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: mostly rather cold and showery.

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.44	7.45	3.07	8.08
Aberdeen	2.19	3.9	2.23	4.1
Avonmouth	8.13	12.3	8.36	11.9
Belfast	12.01	6.4	12.07	6.2
Cardiff	7.58	11.4	8.21	11.1
Devonport	8.44	5.3	7.05	5.0
Exeter	12.01	6.4	12.07	6.2
Falmouth	5.14	5.1	5.35	4.8
Glasgow	1.53	4.5	1.40	4.8
Leamington	12.27	2.8	12.01	3.7
Holyhead	11.20	5.3	11.43	5.0
Liverpool	7.29	6.8	7.27	6.8
Lough	6.53	6.5	6.14	6.2
Malinbeg	3.34	5.1	3.51	5.2
Liverpool	10.40	2.2	12.14	2.4
London	12.46	4.6	1.12	4.5
Manchester	7.17	6.5	7.37	6.8
Merseyside	12.20	1.2	12.07	1.2
Oban	6.32	3.8	7.05	3.7
Penzance	8.42	5.4	8.04	5.1
Portsmouth	12.27	7.0	12.07	6.8
Portsmouth	12.22	4.8	12.28	4.8
Southampton	11.49	5.0	11.20	5.8
Swansea	7.20	8.9	7.42	8.6
Walsby	11.49	5.0	11.20	5.8
Widemouth	12.54	0.9	12.48	0.9

Tide measured in metres: low-2.2899m.

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Scarboro	0.5	-	7	4
Birmingham	0.5	-	7	4
Cardiff	0.5	-	7	4
London	0.5	-	7	4
Manchester	0.5	-	7	4
Portsmouth	0.5	-	7	4
Sheffield	0.5	-	7	4
Southampton	0.5	-	7	4
Wolverhampton	0.5	-	7	4
Wrexham	0.5	-	7	4

NOON TODAY

London 4.22 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.42 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.52 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.47 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday:
cloud: 1, fair: 2, rain: 3, sun: 4

Location	C	F	C	F	
Belfast	6	43	Quincy	10	50
Birmingham	6	43	London	10	50
Cardiff	6	43	Manchester	10	50
Edinburgh	6	43	Newcastle	10	50
Glasgow	6	43	Plymouth	10	50

ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; tp, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sh, snow; t, thunder.

Location	C	F	Location	C	F
Algeria	13	55	Cologne	12	54
Athens	15	59	Dublin	10	50
Bombay	28	82	Geneva	11	52
Buenos Aires	18	64	Hamburg	10	50
Calcutta	28	82	London	10	50
Cairo	22	72	Manchester	10	50
Chongqing	10	50	Newcastle	10	50
Copenhagen	10	50	Plymouth	10	50
Dakar	28	82	Portsmouth	10	50
Dhaka	28	82	Sheffield	10	50
Hankow	10	50	Southampton	10	50
Hong Kong	28	82	Wolverhampton	10	50
Kobe	10	50	Wrexham	10	50
London	10	50			
Lyons	10	50			
Manila	28	82			
Medan	28	82			
Osaka	10	50			
Paris	10	50			
Perth	10	50			
Rangoon	28	82			
San Francisco	10	50			
Singapore	28	82			
Sourabaya	28	82			
Taipei	10	50			
Tokyo	10	50			
Yokohama	10	50			

Portfolio Gold

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Thursday record your daily Portfolio Gold.
Add these to the published weekly dividend figure you have won on the Portfolio Gold.
If you wish to claim your prize for that week, and must claim your prize at the end of the week.

On the Times Portfolio claim card you can claim your prize for that week and the total for the week.
No claim can be accepted unless these instructions are followed.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

WEATHER

A showery westerly airflow will cover the country, with minor troughs bringing some longer spells of rain. Eastern Scotland and NE England will have sunny spells and a few showers. Over western Scotland, N Ireland and NW England showers are likely to be frequent with hail and snow at times. Southern Britain will have a spell of wet weather during the morning; most places will become brighter by afternoon, though still with showers, especially in the W. Temperatures will be near the seasonal normal, but it will be windy in the N and W. Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: mostly rather cold and showery.

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.44	7.45	3.07	8.08
Aberdeen	2.19	3.9	2.23	4.1
Avonmouth	8.13	12.3	8.36	11.9
Belfast	12.01	6.4	12.07	6.2
Cardiff	7.58	11.4	8.21	11.1
Devonport	8.44	5.3	7.05	5.0
Exeter	12.01	6.4	12.07	6.2
Falmouth	5.14	5.1	5.35	4.8
Glasgow	1.53	4.5	1.40	4.8
Leamington	12.27	2.8	12.01	3.7
Holyhead	11.20	5.3	11.43	5.0
Liverpool	7.29	6.8	7.27	6.8
Lough	6.53	6.5	6.14	6.2
Malinbeg	3.34	5.1	3.51	5.2
Liverpool	10.40	2.2	12.14	2.4
London	12.46	4.6	1.12	4.5
Manchester	7.17	6.5	7.37	6.8
Merseyside	12.20	1.2	12.07	1.2
Oban	6.32	3.8	7.05	3.7
Penzance	8.42	5.4	8.04	5.1
Portsmouth	12.27	7.0	12.07	6.8
Portsmouth	12.22	4.8	12.28	4.8
Southampton	11.49	5.0	11.20	5.8
Swansea	7.20	8.9	7.42	8.6
Walsby	11.49	5.0	11.20	5.8
Widemouth	12.54	0.9	12.48	0.9

Tide measured in metres: low-2.2899m.

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Scarboro	0.5	-	7	4
Birmingham	0.5	-	7	4
Cardiff	0.5	-	7	4
London	0.5	-	7	4
Manchester	0.5	-	7	4
Portsmouth	0.5	-	7	4
Sheffield	0.5	-	7	4
Southampton	0.5	-	7	4
Wolverhampton	0.5	-	7	4
Wrexham	0.5	-	7	4

NOON TODAY

London 4.22 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.42 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.52 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.47 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday:
cloud: 1, fair: 2, rain: 3, sun: 4

Location

ECONOMIC VIEW

Real incomes growth tells the Chancellor's rags-to-riches tale

To non-economists it is all rather puzzling. But to economists it is very confusing indeed. The Chancellor, faced a few months ago with post-oil peacery, suddenly encounters an embarrassment of riches. The Treasury, never very successful at hitting its borrowing targets, looks set for another substantial miss this year. But, as in 1985-86, the error will come in the form of a sizeable undershoot. Two financial years can never be directly compared. Changes in the pattern and size of tax payments and the adjustment in a lower oil price mean that comparisons between the present financial year and the last one are problematical. The fact remains, however, that the public sector borrowing requirement for the first eight months of the year was only £5.7 billion, compared with £6 billion in the corresponding period of 1985-86. And this year, unlike last, most of the sizeable proceeds have still to come. In 1985-86, with only a small amount of privatization in the final four months of the financial year, the PSBR returned to £5.8 billion. A similar performance in the final four months of this financial year, coupled with the £3.4 billion of privatization proceeds (British Gas, shares and loans, and the first



Lord Young: "generalized exhortation does not work"

that has been the central feature of the economy this year. Income tax receipts are strong, as is the Exchequer income from corporation tax. Such are the Exchequer benefits from strong growth in real incomes that government ministers appear to have given up exhorting workers to settle for lower pay. Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Employment, admitted this week that "generalized exhortation does not work." In a speech to the Institute of Directors, Lord Young accepted that unions could not be held to respond to such advice from the Government because wage claims were a test of their virility. And management is under pressure to pay the going rate for workers, even if that rate is rising.

Which brings us back to the Government's finances. It is possible to argue that this year's PSBR undershoot, like the summer fall in inflation to less than 2.5 per cent, is largely a one-off effect. It was lower inflation, rather than an acceleration in earnings, that produced the strong growth in real incomes and all its effects outlined above. Next year, inflation will be higher and real income growth consequently lower. It would be unwise to expect this year's buoyancy for non-oil revenues to persist next year (although there could be a boost to oil revenues if Opec agrees to \$18 a barrel production). Why should a PSBR undershoot this year have any consequences for the Government's plans for 1987, and whether or not 2p or 3p is cut from the basic rate of income tax? City economists are already calling into question the public spending totals for next year, although the planning total was raised by £4.7 billion to £148.6 billion.

There is one direct reason why an undershoot this year has implications for next year. The £750 million in British Gas loans due for repayment at the end of the financial year can be taken in either 1986-87 or 1987-88. If the PSBR is heading for an undershoot, it would make sense for the Chancellor to take this £750 million next year. The other reason is that a PSBR undershoot this year will challenge the credibility of those in the City who forecast overshoots. Just as the Treasury has bludgeoned the outside world into acceptance of its economic forecasts, so the Chancellor is attempting the same thing with his commitment to not allowing borrowing to rise above £7 billion next year.

So it all looks to be working out rather nicely. Extra public spending and tax cuts can be magically accommodated in a reasonably robust projection for public borrowing. And for this, credit must be given to the workers and management who refused to listen to ministerial exhortation on lower pay rises; to the banks and other providers of credit for fuelling an already roaring consumer boom; and to the spending departments which successfully challenged the Treasury's public spending totals. David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Table with 4 columns: Retailer Sector, 1984, 1985, 1986. Rows include All retailers, Food retailers, Mixed retailers, Clothing and footwear, Household goods.

Source: Department of Trade & Industry

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Pilkington ahead on points in first round

Among today's master bidders and their advisers, the technique in contested takeovers is to put out a deliberately low initial offer. That is intended to smoke out the other side's ammunition and, most crucially, to depress expectations of the final or real offer. Even so, the first bid usually has enough credibility to attract a few gullible souls who do not watch the market too carefully. Judged by that test, BTR's £1.1 billion offer for Pilkington must rate an all-time low for credibility, having attracted acceptances from only 100,000 shares with a value of just £644,000 at its first closing date on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the offer was, as expected, extended until Christmas eve. This tactic too is by now wellworn. Its message is that the bidder considers his first offer pretty serious and will only be dragged with the utmost reluctance into increasing it by not very much. The idea is that the final offer then comes as a pleasant surprise to the bored shareholders of the target company, who are left to muse that their shares would not stand so high if the bid failed. It is also intended to fill in a dull period in the bid timetable before the victim company is obliged to release all its forecasts—in this case January 3. If the original bid were not extended, the bidder might have to make a succession of higher offers, which tend to raise market expectations. This could be particularly embarrassing for Sir Owen Green and BTR. Pilkington's share price is continuing to rise, putting on 3p yesterday on the low level of acceptances. At 641p, it stands 28p above its close on November 20, the day the bid was announced. Meanwhile, BTR's share price has been sagging. After holding up well at 291p on the first day, it has dropped to 269p, off a further 2p yesterday. This has cut the value of the bid, originally put at around 545p, probably to less than 530p. If Sir Owen had to raise his bid now, he could hardly offer less than 650p a share, which would still probably not survive Pilkington's profit forecast and other final salvos. The interim profits were better than expected, causing market forecasts for the year to March to be raised from an original £175 million or so to £190-200 million. And since this will include less than five months of the latest and biggest 10 per cent rise in British glass prices, it is already clear that Pilkington can do considerably better than this in 1987-88. The BTR share price, although it will have more friends in the New Year, is unlikely to be able to sustain a knockout bid for the fast-improving glassmaker. Pilkington's own credibility has been boosted by the privatization launch of its great Continental rival St Gobain, which shows a similar, if more modest, pattern of retrenchment and recovery. The relationship between the City and industry will certainly feature prominently in discussion of the bid right up to its intended final close on January 24. It will probably not decide the issue. But it will stiffen institutional shareholders to resist any but a knockout bid from BTR.

Zero could mean plenty

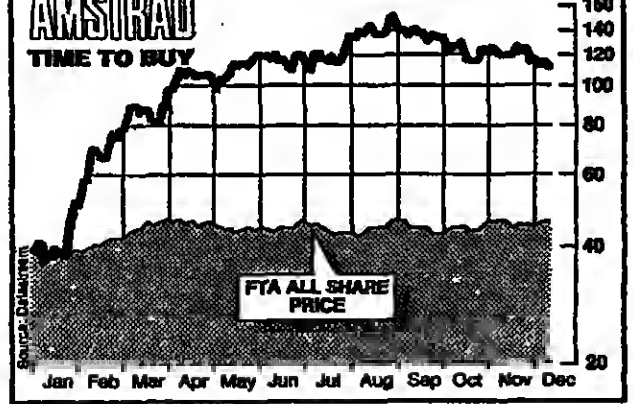
The authorities have not been afraid to innovate in their choice of funding instruments. But we have yet to see a zero-coupon, gilt-edged stock emerging from behind the Bank of England's solid walls. And this, according to Alexander Laing & Cruickshank, is just what the market needs. Zero-coupon bonds, where all the return comes in the form of capital repayment, have proved highly popular. In the United States, pension funds and insurance companies have latched on to zero-coupon bonds for portfolio-matching purposes. A similar demand, largely unsatisfied, almost certainly exists in Britain. Because of this, Alexander argues, zeros could be priced higher than conventional stocks, cutting the cost of funding. There is another potential saving for the Government if zero-coupon gilts attracted higher-rate taxpayers currently investing in tax shelters. Zeros would have lower yields, producing a net saving to the authorities. This net saving would only be lost if all the switching into zero-coupons was from other gilts. Reducing the cost of funding is always an attractive carrot for the authorities. And, if nothing else, a funding innovation by the authorities might liven up a dull-as-ditchwater gilt-edged market. Yesterday, the market managed to struggle to gains of a quarter of a point. But, the bond market gurus at Salomon Brothers, in their Prospects for Financial Markets in 1987, suggest that the present lethargy will not last. Citing the gilts market as easily the most attractive, in yield terms, of the important bond markets, Salomon Brothers suggests that judicious switching between Deutschmark bonds and gilts is the best strategy for 1987. Further dollar weakness is expected, helping the pound to recover to \$1.50, although Salomon Brothers is a keen mark fan at the moment, expecting the dollar to fall to DM 1.75 and sterling to DM 2.60.

STOCK MARKET

Drugs sector sparkles but volumes slacken elsewhere

By Carol Leonard

Christmas festivities were well to the fore in the City yesterday as market men made merry in the "watering holes" within the Square Mile and left the stock market to its own devices. One stockbroker quipped: "Our settlement offices are all overloaded with British Gas and, until they've sorted through the backlog, we might as well go nut and enjoy ourselves." Volumes were extremely thin and the FT-SE 100 Share index responded to the lack of interest by drifting gradually lower, to close down 1.6 at 1,636.3. The FT 30 Share index followed a similar pattern and closed 3.5 lower at 1,276.1. Gilts opened easier on the back of sterling's weakness, but then recovered to end the day about one-sixteenth better in the longs and unchanged in the shorts. Helped by Tuesday's PSBR figures, gilt futures were just a couple of pence below their "high" for the year. Among blue-chip equities ICI firmed 2p to 1083p. Allied-Siamese a penny to 309p, while THE slipped 4p to 172p. Grand Metropolitan 3p to



460p on further profit-taking and GEC 2p to 164p. The pharmaceutical sector was a rare hub of activity with sizeable volumes notched up and most shares making useful gains. Beecham, amid a volume of 4.4 million shares, improved 4p to 430p, after announcing the sale of its interest in Eurobrands, a marketing company for vetoes for £8 million. Glaxo gained another 13p to 1,023p—again on hopes of a new drug, even though it may still be several years away from the market—and Fisons jumped 17p to 538p after a presentation yesterday to the medical press of its new anti-asthma drug, Tilade, due to be launched in Britain in January. London International Group, the Duxes-Royal Worcester combine, eased a half-penny to 245.5p after Soros, the American fund-management group, announced it had further cut its holding in the company to 4.7 per cent. In their seven-page review of the company, two analysts, Mr Mike Whitaker and Mr Keith Woolcock, say they believe that demand for the

new machines is exceeding even the most bullish expectations and that production is now up to the targeted 70,000 units a month. They forecast that profits will almost double, rising from £75.3 million to £150 million, in 1987 and say this technical correction represents "an excellent buying opportunity." Industrial life insurance companies moved sharply higher on vague talk that the TSB may be looking for an acquisition. Analysts were sceptical of the story, although there were reports of a heavy buyer in the sector. Pearl Assurance moved ahead by 20p to 1,528p, Britannic 10p to 887p and Refage 8p to 447p. Hogg Robinson, the insurance broker which unveiled half-time figures and the acquisition of Airtours, a chain of 21 travel agents, jumped 13p to 360p. Speculators hoping that Combined English Stores may turn into a white knight and rescue Goldsmiths from Oriflame will be disappointed. Mr David Richardson, managing director of CES, says he is "definitely not interested" in making a bid. Goldsmiths shares firmed 2p to 264p. Marks and Spencer dipped 3p to 176p with 8.5 million shares traded through the market as some investors lightened their load. James Capel, the broker, has downgraded its profit forecast by about £5 million. LCP slipped 1p to 196p as Ward White declared that it now has 42.8 per cent.

Table with 4 columns: High Low Company, Price, Change, Volume. Lists various companies like Allied-Lyons, ASDA-MFI, BAT, etc.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table with 4 columns: High Low Company, Price, Change, Volume. Lists companies like Land Securities, Lloyds, etc.

Reliance India's largest* company is also one of the fastest growing

Since Reliance went public in 1977, its sales have increased 9 times, assets 42 times and profits 23 times. From a medium-sized textile manufacturer with sales of Rs. 680 million in 1977, Reliance has become a leading integrated manufacturer of synthetic textiles and fibres with sales of over Rs. 7,000 million in 1985. Today Reliance is the largest manufacturer of polyester yarns and fibres in India. As a part of its vertical integration programme, Reliance is in the process of expanding its manufacturing activities in petrochemicals—FTA and MEG, the essential raw materials for the manufacture of polyester. Reliance is diversifying into the manufacture of other new products—LAB (a detergent intermediate), PVC and HDPE (high grade plastics). Reliance also has plans to diversify into electronics. With the support of more investors than any other company in India, over 1.8 million today, Reliance has plans for the future.

Table with 3 columns: RUPES IN MILLIONS, 1977, 1985, %age growth over 1977. Rows include SALES, NET PROFIT, TOTAL ASSETS, NET WORTH, TOTAL DIVIDENDS.

Reliance Industries Limited is strategic growth. Includes address: 13, St. James Square, London SW1 and other locations.

TEMPUS

British Land could be dull in short term

John Riblat has been on a shopping spree - spending £200 million since the end of March. Yesterday, with a placing and offer to existing shareholders, he settled the bill for more than half his purchases. Although apparently happy to live with high gearing, there are limits beyond which even he is unprepared to venture.

The British Land asset value is a moving target. In last year's accounts it came out at about 225p but yesterday's announcement contained a revaluation, taking it to 260p. By increasing the share capital by 45 per cent, however, the newly calculated NTAV falls by more than 10 per cent to 232p. The gearing of the enlarged group stands at about 83 per cent.

The commercial logic of rounding out the Euston Centre interests, of adding to the Plantation House scheme and to the Legal and General portfolio are self-evident. However, it may take the market time to digest the shares and appreciate the full potential of the properties involved.

Proposals have been submitted for the redevelopment of Plantation House while the scope for renegotiating rents at Euston Centre is considerable. Yesterday's interims showed the rest of the business performing satisfactorily. The main features were the impressive rises in gross rents, the profitable disposal of a miscellany of industrial interests and the merging of the group's property, 90 Broad Street, New York with the 85.7 per cent owned subsidiary, British Land Inc, which now has a New York Stock Exchange quotation.

The impact of the new acquisitions for the rest of this year is insignificant. British Land should make £27.5 million (eps 13.5p). Next year the new properties should make their presence felt and push profits to £38 million. Earnings, however, will be diluted by about 9 per cent to 14.1p.

The shares are usually a favourite for traders, but it looks as if they could be dull in the short term.

Clyde Petroleum
Ever since the first discovery well was drilled at the Buchan oil field more than 10 years ago, the complex geology has ensured controversy over how big it would become.

There is a widespread belief that the official, recoverable reserves estimate of 75 million barrels could be too low - by as much as 10 million barrels - even though the field has produced 52 million barrels so far.

Only time will tell. But for Clyde Petroleum, which takes an optimistic view of the field's potential, buying another slice of Buchan is the realization of a long-cherished dream.

It was merely a question of finding a way to pay for it. Its failed bid for Berkeley Exploration and Production provided the key. Clyde, the underbidder, had the co-ownership of £3.6 million cash after the disposal of its Berkeley shares to the successful bidder, Ranger Oil.

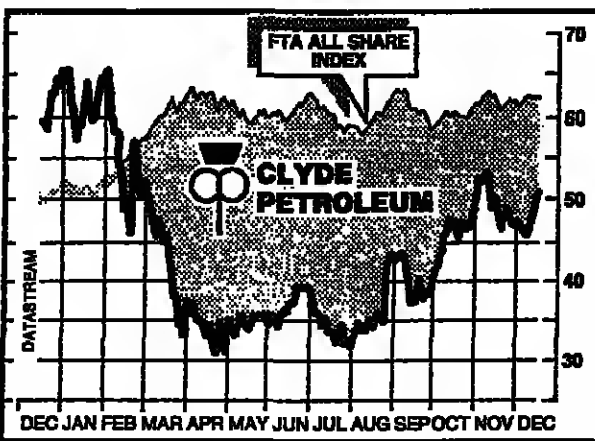
As a result, Clyde's net debt will be about £4 million at the December year-end, rising to a little more than £10 million on completion of this deal.

Clyde may have to take a £25 million asset write-down this year owing to lower oil prices. But the company does not expect debt to rise above one-third of shareholders' funds.

Clyde looks certain to make a loss this year before asset write-downs. However, Clyde should make a small profit in 1987, assuming the oil price can stay at \$15 a barrel. If it rises above \$15, so much the better.

Clyde now has the financial strength to do more than just survive until Wytch Farm comes in with the real jam in 1989. It will have a sufficient cash flow to spare \$10 million for exploration. This will allow it to take part in up to 10 offshore and onshore wells.

It will take a much higher oil price to bring the independent oil sector back into favour but, when it happens, Clyde has a good chance of being around to enjoy the party. Unless, of course, it is snuffed up by a greedy predator.



DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Hogg Robinson

Hogg Robinson's interim pretax profits at £7.9 million were above best expectations and sent the share price racing 10p higher to 357p.

The mix of profits caused some surprise with travel, transport and financial services registering an impressive operating profits increase of 42 per cent, but insurance broking showing only 4 per cent growth.

Adverse exchange rates, mainly a 15 per cent fall in the dollar, and a rise in Hogg's own errors and omissions cover of £700,000 knocked £1.4 million off broking profits.

As the bulk of American buyouts of the Lloyd's underwriting agency businesses will not affect Hogg's profits for at least the next three years, because of the profit-sharing method used in the sale mechanism.

The growing travel and new estate agency business should easily fill the gap left when underwriting profits start to run down. Hogg accompanied its interim statement with the news that it is buying 21 travel branches from Airtours bringing its high street outlets up to 210.

Full year profits of £21.5 million are in sight, giving a prospective p/e ratio of just over 12, assuming tax of 33 per cent. The rating is modest by the standards of other Lloyd's brokers. Despite outperforming the brokers' index over the past few months, Hogg shares should go higher in the long term.

SE opens doors for locals in options trading

By Richard Lander

The fast-growing Stock Exchange traded options market is taking an important step to boost volume by opening its doors to individuals who will be admitted as brokers or market-makers.

Sole traders, or locals as they are known in the futures and options markets, have long been an established feature of the hectic trading pits in the United States.

The concept has been exported to Australia and Britain, where some 60 locals do business on the London International Financial Futures Exchange. The London Commodity Exchange is also likely to admit locals next year.

Mr Bernard Reed, options manager, said the Exchange is already open for applications from potential locals. Apart

from having to pass an options examination, they will have to pay a £10,000 membership fee and have at least £10,000 in liquid capital.

Locals, who can trade personally or with limited liability, will have to choose between acting as brokers or market-makers; the Stock Exchange is keen to avoid any conflict of interest. Locals will be barred from dealing with the public and will be restricted to trading with or for member firms.

The Stock Exchange has traded options in 42 equities, two currencies, two gilts and the FT-SE 100 share index. Volume averages about 43,500 contracts a day - more than three times the level of a year ago - and reached a peak of 81,733 last week when British Gas was launched.

APPOINTMENTS

Ladbroke names finance director

Ladbroke Group: Mr Jerry O'Mahony is to be finance director.

Record Merchandisers: Mr Malcolm Parkinson has become chairman and Mr Derek Pretty and Mr David Dey non-executive directors. Mr Hassan Akhtar has become chief executive.

Metahra Group: Mr Harold John Mingsgrove has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Shepherd Building Group: Mr Colin Shepherd has become group chairman and managing director, succeeding Sir Peter Shepherd.

Hepworth Plastics: Mr JD Carter is to be managing director.

Hercules Incorporated: Mr David Hollingsworth is to be chairman and chief executive. Mr Fred Buckner is to be president and Mr Arden Engelbrechtsen vice-chairman.

BCI (UK): Mr Donald Wright becomes deputy chairman and managing director.

National Carriers Contract Services: Mr David Buck has been named as managing director.

Berkeley Exploration & Production: Mr AA Wilson has become financial director, Ranger Oil (UK), Mr GH Bowman, Mr AJ Dingley and Mr AW Hart have become directors of Berkeley Exploration.

Salomoo Brothers: Mr Nicholas Bedford, Mr Ste-



Colin Shepherd

phen Brisby, Mr F Wood Fisher, Mr Gary Goodenough, Mr Jean Grall, Mr David Jarvis, Mr Christopher Mitchenson, Mr Gordon Taylor and Miss Valerie Thompson are to be directors.

Connells Estate Agents: Mr David Wood has been named as finance director.

Royle Communications: Miss Anne Bartolo has become account director.

Steelcase Sirafor: Mr Charles Posnett has become UK sales and market director.

Jobo Laing Construction: Mr John Armit and Mr Michael Tredwell are to be joint managing directors, UK Civil Engineering.

Persimmon: Mr David Bryant is to be managing director Persimmon Homes (Anglia). Mr Steven Feneley has become land director Persimmon Homes (Midlands).

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with multiple columns for various options contracts including Call and Put options for different stocks and indices. Columns include Series, Dec, Mar, Jun, Sep, and Puts. Includes sub-sections for Money Markets and Euro Money Deposits.

MONEY MARKETS

Table showing money market rates for various terms (6m, 12m, 18m) and currencies (USD, GBP, EUR). Includes sections for Bullion and ECDD.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing financial futures prices for Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, US Treasury Bond, Short Gilt, and Long Gilt.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table showing traditional options for various stocks and indices, including call and put options.

Advertisement for Olivetti personal computer, featuring a special deal on a complete Olivetti computer solution (M19 PC, letter quality printer and word processing software) at exceptionally reduced prices.

Advertisement for Digitus for Compaq, including Plus Training and contact information for Alison Gibson.

Large advertisement for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc, featuring interim results for 1986 and a 10% interim dividend. Includes a table of financial data and a list of key points.

Advertisement for Olivetti personal computer, featuring a special deal on a complete Olivetti computer solution (M19 PC, letter quality printer and word processing software) at exceptionally reduced prices.

Advertisement for Base Lending Rates, listing various banks and their respective rates.

Advertisement for British Gas Buy or Sell, No Commission, featuring competitive prices and contact information.

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Bluebird Conf, Cook (Wm), Wood-orth, etc.

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, WEEKLY TOTAL.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, %.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Shares, Price, % Change, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares ease in quiet trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 8. Dealings end Friday. Settlement day next Monday. Settlement day January 5.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

BREWERIES table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

FOODS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Portfolio - Gold -

DAILY DIVIDEND £8,000. Claims required for +32 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

PROPERTY table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

SHIPPING table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

TEXTILES table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

OIL table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

TOBACCO table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, %.

Ex dividend, Ex all, Ex forward dividend and interim payment, Ex all, Ex forward dividend and interim payment, Ex all, Ex forward dividend and interim payment.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 18, 1986

During the past six years UK companies achieved major productivity improvements and became much more cost-competitive and profitable.

The result of these shortcomings is seen by the UK's 16th place ranking in the international marketing league, and its 13 per cent unemployment level compared with the less than 5 per cent for the leading six countries in the league which include Japan, the United States, Sweden and West Germany.



The competitive and successful society must also be a caring society if it is to win the greatest rewards, says Tony McBurnie

Perhaps our lead in the Industrial Revolution meant little real competition and our captive empire market blunted our marketing prowess.

marketing tools, tactics and jargon.

More effort is needed to communicate the critical impact of marketing performance on economic prosperity, employment and company profitability.

More thought needs to be given to attracting bright young people into the excitement and satisfaction of a career in marketing.

British companies now realize that growth and profit will not automatically result from manufacturing efficiency and cost-cutting.

Unless emphasis is placed on much more effective marketing, the very high cost, in social, economic and human terms, of achieving and improving manufacturing performance will have been futile and a scandalous waste of talent.

How would the mantle of a highly competitive culture sit on British heads? Is economic and corporate prosperity worth the risk to our caring British way of life? Would a resurgence of international marketing competitiveness mean a swing to an even

more materialistic culture in this country? Was the junior school teacher right when she said competitive games should be stopped because they were too stressful for the children?

Without a much more competitive approach in international markets our share of world trade, which has fallen by more than half in the past 20 years, will tumble even further.

We do not have a choice. We simply have to ensure that a competitive, successful society does not become an uncaring society. The rewards which flow from marketing dynamism, as we have seen, are low unemployment, low inflation and a prosperous nation - without many of the social problems associated with lack of business and economic success.

The challenge is a fundamental one, but it will not go away. The Institute of Marketing, as the national marketing body, has to be the catalyst in bringing these goals to a successful conclusion. It will not be easy, but it has to be achieved. The economic prosperity and the social well-being of the country depend on it.

Tony McBurnie is director general of the Institute of Marketing

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Director. The Academy is a Government-supported multi-disciplinary, bi-cultural educational institution in Hong Kong training students at tertiary level in the field of dance, music and technical arts.

RESUME/FIELD SALES TRAINING/SPECIALISTS. Telephone Altec, subsidiary of a major U.S. corporation, is among the world's largest producers of radio-base and handset alloys.

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS. 35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-256 8501.

BIG BANG!!! Is your view negative or positive? Europe's leading brokerage still has a limited number of positions for 25-35 year old, ambitious individuals.

JAN 5/12? Speak well and need £400+ pw? If so telephone me today if you can start in early January.

BESWICK'S FOODS. Beswick Foods are a leading supplier of own label soups and salad dressings to national and international retail and catering outlets.

AUSTRALIA CSIRO RESEARCH SCIENTIST/SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST. AS28,107 - AS41,339. DIVISION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PRESTON VIC.

Managing Director Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation. We have been retained as advisers to the Board of the Corporation in the search for a successor to Mr. Leslie Boardman who retires this year.

Bowood ADMINISTRATOR. Owing to the forthcoming retirement of our present Administrator, a successor is required for BOWOOD HOUSE, one of England's most successful Stately Homes open to the public.

TATE & LYLE TECHNICAL SERVICES. Following successful implementation of several joint venture tree crop projects in the Far East, Tate & Lyle Technical Services are now engaged in providing technical assistance to a number of tea and coffee projects in Southern and Eastern Africa.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. We are a Nationally represented Company operating in all areas of the Financial Services Industry.

SALES AGENT TRAINEES. The City Business Machines Group are seeking aggressive, career-minded people to sell Office Equipment, Furniture and Stationery.

EXPERIENCED PART TIME BOOK-KEEPER. required up to Trial Balance, Budgeting, Long Range Forecast, Stock Control, Paye, etc.

SALES EXECUTIVE - ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS. A dynamic sales executive required to expand sales of a recently developed, high profit, worldwide only sales device.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS. FORM YOUR OWN CONSULTANCY WITH US. If you are currently in the information & communication systems consultancy business, together with the leisure and business industries and their development opportunities, then we would be interested in assisting you to realize your full entrepreneurial potential.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Phillips & Drew Corporate Finance

Company Liaison & Market Information Executive

Phillips & Drew is now wholly-owned by the Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the largest banks in the world, and is seeking an ambitious executive to join the Corporate Finance Department as a member of the Company Liaison & Market Information team which provides a continuous service to the Department's client companies.

As the successful applicant your responsibilities will be to cover the key areas of investor relations, market information and company announcements, to include specifically: monitoring the share price movements of the company and its competitors, advising client companies on profit statements and dividend policy, releasing figures to The Stock Exchange and hosting management/investor presentations and meetings.

If you are aged 25-30, with a good standard of education and can communicate effectively with top management, this could be the opportunity for you. An understanding of how the City works and a knowledge of Stock Exchange activities is essential.

We will reward you with an excellent compensation package to include a bonus, mortgage subsidy, pension scheme, free life assurance and free BUPA.

Please apply in confidence to:

Sally Waddley, Recruitment Officer,
Phillips & Drew,
120 Moorgate, London EC2M 6XP

A member of the Union Bank of Switzerland Group.

Business-to-business direct marketing professionals

Mailplan International Limited, the market leaders in business-to-business direct marketing, seek applications from ambitious, capable and experienced individuals.

The people we need must demonstrate the ability to produce results in this demanding and growing marketplace. We attach considerable importance to the qualities of creative thinking, self-reliance, interpersonal skills, a strong desire to make things happen and, above all, the determination to achieve results for our clients.

There are outstanding senior career opportunities. As you would expect, rewards will be realistically pitched for the right people.

Write to Murray Watson, Marketing Director,
and tell him why you are the right person for the job.

Mailplan International Limited

45-47 Monument Hill Weybridge Surrey KT13 BSF Telephone (0932) 59700.



TRANSPORT MANAGER

Grade POD £19,041 p.a. - £20,625 p.a. inclusive

The Council wish to appoint a Manager in the Works Services Division of the Engineering Department to control the operation and maintenance of a mixed fleet of over 300 vehicles and the maintenance of approximately 1000 items of Plant.

A cost conscious approach to the provision of a competitive service to client departments is essential, and applications are invited from anyone with proven managerial and entrepreneurial skills relevant to the task. An Essential User Car allowance is payable. Fringe benefits. Flexitime is worked.

Application forms for the above post quoting reference number EN9/14/43X available from the Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3JW. Telephone: Uxbridge 50583 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date: 2nd January, 1987.



Applications from disabled persons will be welcomed.

CONSULTANT ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

RTZ Computer Services, part of the international mining and mineral processing RTZ Group, advises clients upon the use of computer systems. One area in which there is proven potential for development of our services is that of systems for project, maintenance and materials management.

We are looking for a qualified engineer with a good degree and at least five years of first hand experience in the application of computer systems in engineering management, based upon direct line responsibility.

Reporting to the Consultancy Director, he or she will handle a wide range of assignments both in the UK and abroad. The development of this area of competence will mean operating autonomously at times, although fully supported by our offices in London and Bristol.

The ability to establish close working relationships with clients, whilst maintaining objectivity, is essential. The appointed consultant must be as equally at home presenting proposals to a board of directors as training engineering tradesmen in the use of a computer system.

The remuneration package is substantial, including the benefits of the RTZ Group employee schemes, and a car will be provided.

Applications in writing should be sent to the Personnel Officer, RTZ Computer Services Limited at our Bristol address, enclosing full details of experience and qualifications.



RTZ Computer Services Limited,
1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS39 7JS
Telephone: Bristol (0272) 24181
Telex: 419857 RTZCS

TRAINING STANDARDS TO MATCH OUR SERVICES

ASSISTANT TRAINING OFFICER

Frizzell are a leading financial services group with a reputation for providing an excellent service to our clients.

We currently need a highly motivated young person to assist our Group Training Officer with the development of new training courses and the re-evaluation of existing programmes. Occasionally, you will also be designing non-course based material. In addition to analysing performance reviews and preparing statistical information, you will also provide strong administrative support within the department on a day to day basis.

Aged around 22-24, educated to 'A' level standard and preferably with instructional experience, the ideal candidate will already have administrative experience gained in a training or personnel department and will be required to have a strong belief in training plus an ability to adapt quickly to new situations.

Based in our head office, close to Liverpool Street Station, we can offer a competitive salary, plus an attractive range of benefits which include profit-sharing.

FRIZZELL

Please write with a full C.V. and stating salary expectations to Mrs. S. McGeechie, Group Personnel Manager, The Frizzell Group Limited, 14/22 Elder Street, London, E1 6DF.

ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Here at Peugeot Talbot UK we are going from strength to strength, with our Coventry built Peugeot 309 receiving wide acclaim, and another new car due to be launched in 1988.

We are now seeking experienced Engineers to make an effective contribution to our continued success. You will be working in a highly modernised environment well equipped to produce high quality current and future models.

Senior Process Engineers

You will head a team of process engineers responsible for the process of tooling assignments involving design, procurement, manufacture and layout of tools required for body assembly operations.

We are seeking qualified senior engineers with a minimum of 15 years' process planning experience in body assembly operations and with proven experience of controlling and organising work of other engineers.

P.L.C. Computer Systems Engineer

You'll specialise in system design, specification, evaluation and programming of industrial P.L.C.'s linked to various computers which operate manufacturing plant, and via peripheral products produce fault diagnostic and management information.

You'll be required to analyse the sequential control of electrical and mechanical functions on current and proposed process equipment operated by P.L.C./Computer base. A key function will be to restructure/revise systems in ladder diagrams and Pascal language formats to cater for future models and improved productivity and reliability.

Ideally of graduate engineer status with several years' project experience preferably within the motor industry.

We offer competitive salaries enhanced by valuable incentive and superannuation schemes and generous car purchase discounts. Relocation assistance will be provided where appropriate.

Please apply to N.C. Robinson, Personnel Administration/Training Manager, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company Limited, P.O. Box 46, London Road, System on Dunsmore, Coventry CV3 3JZ. Telephone: (0203) 303030.



THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

BBC APPOINTMENTS

REPORTER

Television

Southampton

One of our best known reporters, Debbie Thrower, is now working with BBC Television News in London. We need to replace her with someone who is keen to develop a career as a television reporter. You will contribute to our regional programmes and network news and have the chance to present our highly-rated nightly news magazine *South Today*.

You'll need to be a journalist with radio or television experience, and a current driving licence is essential.

One year contract: £15,525 - £21,045**

(Ref. 1398/T)

PRESENTATION ANNOUNCER

Television

Norwich

BBC South & East requires a television presentation announcer, based Norwich. Your duties, which are on a shift basis, will include reading news bulletins in a self-operated presentation studio during the day and in the context of the nightly magazine programme *Look East*, plus the bulletin following the *Nine O'Clock News*. You will also prepare and present continuity material and put out pre-recorded programmes from the self-operated studio.

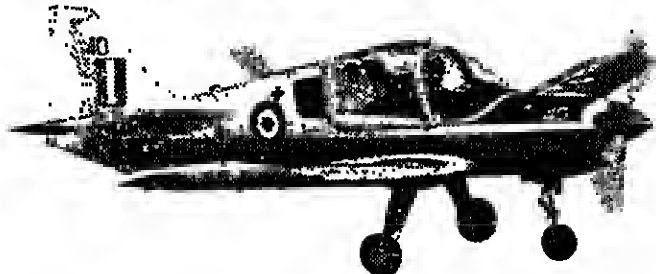
Television experience essential. This post is offered as a 12 month contract - starting salary (including allowances) will be in the range of £12,571 - £13,654.

(Ref. 1418/T)

We are an equal opportunities employer

**Plus an allowance of £1,020 p.a. Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5795.

YOUR DEGREE COULD BE WORTH £18,000 BEFORE YOU GET IT.



If you're intending to take a degree course at a university or polytechnic, you could be worth a lot to us, now, as a future RAF Officer.

Whether on the ground or in the air, you would work with some of the most exciting technology in the world.

Right now, we are particularly interested in future Pilots, Navigators, Fighter Controllers, Air Traffic Controllers and both men and women Engineers and Education Officers.

SPONSORSHIPS

Our three-year University Sponsorship is worth £18,000* (if you are already at university or polytechnic, shorter Sponsorships are available). The Sponsorship prepares you for your future role as an RAF Officer. Although you will live exactly as any other undergraduate, you will also be a member of the Air Squadron affiliated to your university or polytechnic. Depending on the branch of the RAF you may become qualified for, you can also gain flying experience while still an undergraduate.

You would also have short periods of RAF training during term time, and gain practical experience in your chosen branch at RAF Stations in the UK, or even overseas, during some of your vacations.

The same Sponsorships are available for courses leading to a B.Eng. degree in Mech-

anical, Electronic, Software or Information Systems Engineering. Such courses (accredited by the Engineering Council) are now available at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

The RAF also offers full Sponsorship of sandwich courses in Air Transport Engineering at the City University, London, and in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Salford University.

All the RAF asks of you in return for Sponsorship is at least five years' productive service.

For more information, please write to Group Captain Paul Terrett, OBE, at (P/F) Officer Careers, (08/15/12), Stanmore HA2 4PZ, or talk to your Careers Officer.

If you are applying in writing, please include your date of birth and your present and/or intended qualifications.

*1986-87 pay scales.



COMPUTER SALES

- PC SALES EXECUTIVES. Aggressive 21-35 year olds with good track records required. Leading top end range PC Systems to Major Accounts and Corporate Market. 16-20K Basic OTE 40K+ BSW & good Company benefits. IMMEDIATE START (London & South East)
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT MANAGERS. Up to 20K Basic & BMW + excellent Company benefits (London & South East)
- GOOD UNW/END SYSTEMS SALES EXPERIENCE. MAJOR MANUFACTURER immediate positions available South East & London. IMMEDIATE START. 15-20K Basic + 30-45 OTE + car & excellent benefits.
- COMPUTER PERIPHERALS/OFFICE AUTOMATION. Sales Executives with good track records always required, looking for a change of Company, or to break into Computer Sales, excellent packages available, immediate start.

For these and many other positions within the Computing Industry Contact:

MARTIN MELLISH THE ACTIVE GROUP

01-388 3111
LONDONS LEADING COMPUTING SALES CONSULTANCY or send CV's to:

THE ACTIVE GROUP (UK LTD), Euston House, 81-103 Euston Street, London NW1

ENGLISH SPEAKING PUBLICATION IN SPAIN

is looking for a commercial minded Spanish National with a proven track record for the position of Office Manager. The successful candidate will speak fluent Spanish and English, be numerate and have an actual interest in the affairs and events of the Costa Del Sol. Terms will be negotiated according to the individual and his or her experience and ability.

Please write with full cv to:
KJR/1,
13/15 Davies Street
London W1.

MANAGER

required by a progressive and ambitious soft furnishings and linen retailer. We are looking for someone with experience, ambition, organisational abilities and pleasant personality. Salary negotiable.

Apply with full details:

The Linen Chest
81/83 High Street
Ruislip
Middlesex HA4 8JB
Tel: Ruislip 0895 630828



OPPORTUNITIES IN TRAINING

CITY SALARY PACKAGE c. £12K

The vacancies exist within our Training Division for Professional people aged 25-35 years. A bright personality, good communication skills and unflappable nature are necessary attributes for these challenging but rewarding positions.

MICRO COMPUTER TRAINER
Experience necessary with DOS operating system software packages. Additional training given if required.

WORD PROCESSOR TRAINER
Experience required with dedicated Word Processing such as Phillips and or Wang from Basic through to Advanced.



36/37 FURNIVAL ST, LONDON EC4A 1JQ
TELEPHONE 01-831 6994

MARKETING EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTERS

Financial Times Business Information is looking for an enthusiastic person to join a marketing team promoting a range of newsletter titles. You will be responsible for developing circulation through direct marketing campaigns and other promotional means. The ability to communicate well is vital.

Ideally you should have at least one years experience in marketing with some knowledge of direct mail techniques. Experience in a publishing environment would be useful but is not essential.

A good educational background is required together with a creative approach and a methodical analytical mind.

A competitive salary will be offered depending on experience together with 5 weeks holiday a year plus Luncheon Vouchers.

Please send full cv to:

Steve Swan
Personnel Officer
FTB
Greyfriars Place
Fetter Lane,
London EC4A 1ND

AUSTRALIA CSIRO ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

A\$28,107 - A\$41,339

DIVISION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY WOODVILLE SA

The Division engages in research and development work to support Australian industry. Laboratories are located in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Its activities are organised into three main programs: Arc Techniques, Materials Engineering and Integrated Manufacture. The latter program undertakes research in the areas of computer-aided design and manufacture, including robotics, machine tool control, machine vision, microelectronics, and manufacturing information technology.

Recently a section of the Integrated Manufacture program has been set up in the Adelaide Laboratory. An engineer or scientist is required to conduct research in the area of manufacturing information technology, including simulation, scheduling, resource planning, production and inventory control and warehousing.

Applicants should have a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications, with a sound theoretical background in areas such as knowledge-based systems, operations research or distributed control systems. Demonstrated ability in research is essential, and experience in production industry is highly desirable. Experience with the UNIX operating system and the C programming language would be an advantage.

TELEPHONE: Indefinite with Australian Government superannuation benefits available.

APPLICATIONS: Setting relevant personal particulars, including details of qualifications and experience, the names of at least two professional referees and quoting Reference No A5934, should be directed to:
Officer-in-Charge
Adelaide Laboratory
CSIRO Division of Manufacturing Technology
PO Box 4
WOODVILLE SA 5011 AUSTRALIA

By January 16, 1987
CSIRO IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LUXURY LETS LONDON LTD

Require experienced residential letting negotiator to join our expanding and highly successful team in St Johns Wood. Applicants must have experience and a good knowledge of central London. Top salary plus commission, use of company car.

Tel for appointment: 01-328 9846

UNITED ENGINEERING STEELS LTD. MANAGER - TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

There is an opportunity for an experienced Management Trainer to join an established and successful team at Brookfield Manor Management Training and Conference Centre located in the Peak District National Park near Hathersage.

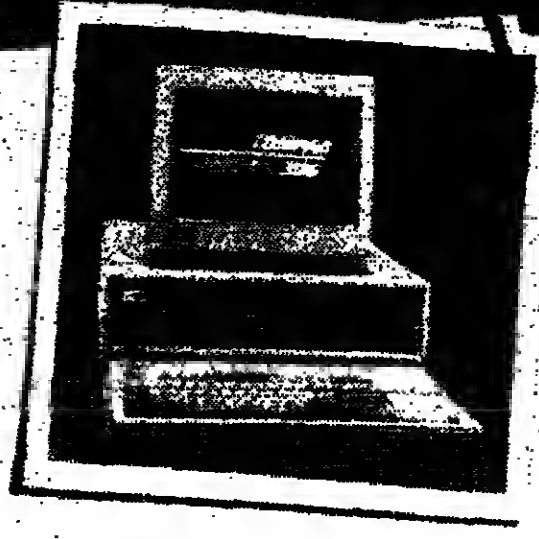
In addition to providing Management, Supervisory, Teamwork Development and specialist training to the Divisions of United Engineering Steels Ltd., the Centre also provides a similar range of training and facilities to industry in general and to the steel industry in particular.

We are seeking to strengthen the team by appointing a Manager - Training Development, responsible to the Centre Manager, whose major responsibilities will be marketing, development and management of Team Training and other Organisational Development activities. The further development of management and specialist training courses and methods.

The successful applicant will be qualified to degree or equivalent level, will have worked in manufacturing industry and have experience in the development and presentation of Management/Supervisory Training and Organisation Development Programmes.

Reflecting the importance of this appointment a salary within the range of £16,000-£18,000 p.a. is envisaged but could be negotiable for the right candidate. Applications should be sent to: Manager, Brookfield Manor Management Training & Conference Centre, Hathersage, Sheffield, S30 1BR.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



CURRICULUM VITAE

Name COMPAQ COMPUTER LIMITED.
Address Ambassador House, Paradise Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1SQ.
Nationality British, of US descent.
Date of Birth US: February 1st, 1982. UK: April 2nd, 1984.

Achievements

- October 1983: Launched new US computer (COMPAQ PLUS) with 30 times the storage of IBM PC.
- December 1983: Went public in USA.
- January 1984: Turnover \$111,000,000. Greatest 1st year sales in history of American business.
- April 1984: British subsidiary set up.
- August 1984: COMPAQ PORTABLE outsold IBM's 7 to 1.
- December 1984: COMPAQ PORTABLE sales ranked 1st in the world.
- January 1985: Worldwide turnover \$329,000,000. Greater growth than any other computer company in history.
- December 1985: 2,800 authorised dealers in 33 countries.
- January 1986: Worldwide turnover \$503,000,000. 1,860 employees.
- April 1986: Entered 'Fortune 500' fastest entry ever.
- September 1986: Launched COMPAQ DESKPRO 386 in UK. 'A quantum leap for desktop computing.' PC Business world.
- November 1986: Announced setting up of first European manufacturing plant in Glasgow.

MARKETING OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

LOCATION West London.
AGE 25+ Graduate with a minimum 3 years experience of working with Computer Dealers/Resellers in a sales-oriented role.
JOB DESCRIPTION Reporting to UK Marketing Manager. Responsible for the overall support and development of the COMPAQ Authorised Dealer Network in fully utilising COMPAQ's extensive marketing support programmes, and equipping dealers with the necessary skills and materials in order to fully promote COMPAQ's total product range. In addition, the investigation of new potential channels of distribution for COMPAQ products will be part of this function.
REMUNERATION Competitive salary, company car, usual fringe benefits.

MAJOR ACCOUNTS PRE-SALES SUPPORT MANAGER

LOCATION West London.
AGE 25+ Graduate with minimum of 2 years experience in a Technical Sales Support role with particular emphasis on the use of microcomputers within large organisations.
JOB DESCRIPTION Reporting to Technical Director. Responsible for pre-sales technical support as part of COMPAQ's Major Accounts programme. Will be required to liaise fully with COMPAQ's Authorised Dealer Network as well as advising the DP/MIS and Microcomputer Support Managers of Major Accounts in areas of connectivity, compatibility and other areas relating to the installation of COMPAQ products.
REMUNERATION Salary + benefits + car commensurate with age and experience.

COMMUNICATIONS/NETWORK SPECIALIST

LOCATION West London.
AGE 25+ with a minimum of 3 years experience with a computer manufacturer or large DP Department.
JOB DESCRIPTION Reporting to Technical Director. Responsible for the support of COMPAQ Authorised Dealers in the areas of mainframe communications and microcomputer networks. The successful candidate will be required to be fully conversant with IBM Communications protocols and IBM Token Ring Network. (Additional experience of Torus, Nestar, Novell, etc. would be an advantage). A practical understanding of end-user requirements is essential.
REMUNERATION Salary + benefits + car commensurate with age and experience.

DEALER SALES MANAGERS

LOCATION London and South, Midlands, North West, North East.
AGE/QUALIFICATIONS 25-35. Possess a degree or similar qualification and have a proven track record in the microcomputer sales environment, with either manufacturer, dealer or software house.
JOB DESCRIPTION The successful candidate will be working closely with both dealer principals and dealer sales personnel in order to facilitate the required sales volumes of COMPAQ products through the COMPAQ Authorised Dealer channel and on to end-users.
 It is envisaged that only those candidates who can successfully demonstrate a high level of Account Management capability will meet the required standards of this role, as COMPAQ's ongoing business relationship with its dealer base is key to its long term success.
REMUNERATION Will be based upon age and experience but will consist of a high basic salary and incentive bonus, company car and other fringe benefits.

TELEPHONE SALES

LOCATION Richmond, Surrey.
AGE/QUALIFICATIONS 25+. Telephone articulate, some experience with the personal computer industry desirable and educated to University standard.
 The successful candidate is expected within 12-18 months to transfer to a field sales role.
JOB DESCRIPTION You will be a member of a key sales team which is the focal point regarding COMPAQ's day to day liaison with its UK Authorised Dealer Network.
 Duties will include: receipt of orders, shipment queries, advising dealers on stock availability, and product specifications, ensuring all communications receive prompt and efficient attention.
REMUNERATION Competitive salary + benefits.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

LOCATION West London.
AGE 21+ Graduate with minimum 3 years varied experience embracing PC, Application Software knowledge as well as some sales, marketing and/or support experience.
JOB DESCRIPTION Reporting to UK Marketing Manager. Responsible for the co-ordination of COMPAQ's marketing plans in conjunction with those of major third party hardware and software companies. The successful candidate will also be required to identify and evaluate new business opportunities for COMPAQ within a number of pre-defined application areas.
REMUNERATION Competitive salary commensurate with position and experience. Company car, usual company benefits.

HERE'S
OUR C.V.
—
WHERE'S
YOURS?

Not a bad C.V. for a four-year-old? (Compared to us, Mozart was a late-developer. He didn't perform his first recital till he was six.)

Like many C.V.s we've read, it seems almost too good to be true. But unlike many we've read, it has no fanciful claims or unexplained gaps. Honest.

As for references, we wouldn't know where to start. We've been called 'the most successful computer company in history'. Ask any computer expert. Read the computer press.

Then, assuming you think we've the right qualifications (and frankly, if we haven't, we don't know who has,) send us your C.V. Put it in an envelope marked with the job you're applying for, and send it to our Personnel Manager at the address above.

Your application for any of the jobs advertised on this page today will be treated in the strictest confidence. We'll be rather more discreet with your

C.V. than we've been with our own. Finally, a word of warning. Our standards are high. We expect your C.V. to be even more impressive than ours. After all, you've been around longer than we have.

MAJOR ACCOUNTS MANAGER

LOCATION London.
AGE AND QUALIFICATIONS 28-33 Degree or similar qualification with at least 5 years proven computer sales experience with a major computer manufacturer selling into the corporate market place.
JOB DESCRIPTION The successful candidate will be responsible in conjunction with COMPAQ's Authorised Dealers for increasing sales volumes



WE'LL NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE YOU.

Tiriac smiles at last as Becker comes of age

David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, meets the man behind the meteoric rise to stardom of the boy who launched a nation into a brave new world of tennis

Showing strength of character when twice winning Wimbledon as a teenager is one thing. When Boris Becker was losing the Masters final in straight sets to Ivan Lendl last week, his mental hinges were rattling.

Three days later, beaten in front of his own crowd in a relatively minor tournament at Stuttgart by a comparatively little-known opponent, he might have done a McEnroe and flipped. He didn't.

Are the pressures, the responsibilities, crowding in on you, he was asked after losing to Andrei Chesnokov in the under-21 championship? "There is nothing worth doing," Becker said calmly, "that does not involve pressure." For a young man aged 19, he had the reputation of a 'veteran' campaigner like Gullickson. In his way, the moment was as impressive as a Wimbledon post-match conference.

For all the boom in West German tennis, with 200,000 youngsters taking up the game in the past 18 months, it should be remembered that Becker did not, like Hoad or McEnroe, have the natural touch of genius. His feet were wrong, his positioning questionable, his temper erratic. What he did have, when Ion Tiriac, the Romanian coach and manager, took charge of him four years ago, was an exceptional will to succeed.

"I am not modest. Without me, Boris would never have done what he has," Tiriac says. Tiriac, whose appear-



A Papal blessing for Becker who, with his girl friend, Benedicte Courtin (left), had an audience at the Vatican yesterday

ance suggests he was designed by Ian Fleming as an adversary for Bond and could not help but seem sinister even if he went around kissing babies, believes that the making of a player is as much in the mind as in the racket. Tiriac is a stickler for organization; improbably, for someone once involved with Nastase, for image Becker reflects this.

"Boris is a polemic," Tiriac says. "He was like an Italian, a Romanian, another crazy Latin. From the first day he was difficult. Now he has matured a lot but from time to time it still comes out. Against Lendl he was an eager 19-year-old. He wanted something too much. Sometimes the self-demand for perfection, like we have seen with McEnroe, can become negative. This is the end of the season and all Boris can see in front of him is a green space with white lines and yellow balls. He cannot visualize a day off. His reaction to New York was logical for his age."

I am tired and empty and I can't concentrate," Becker said last week, but there was still an assurance in his manner. Yet only two years ago, Guenther Bosch, his technical coach, says he was as erratic as this every match. The rapidity with which Becker has matured is exceptional. It was after the under-21 champion-

Tiriac, whose credibility as coach is well documented with such players as Leconte, Vilas, Panatta and Nastase, believes that the game is going to change radically in the next 10 years; that the percentage play of the Seventies has gone; that rallies will become shorter and played in less space; that the players, utilizing new materials in rackets and balls, will hit even harder and take more risks. The game will develop, he thinks, the way table tennis did 20 years ago.

Tiriac is in favour of the controversial "Super 600" concept, which is threatening to precipitate legal argument between the Men's International Professional Tennis Council and two of the top three management groups, ProServ and McCormack's International Management Group. The concept is that the world's top 10 players would be offered huge bonuses to commit themselves to some 15 tournaments offering a minimum \$60,000 (about £420,000) prize-money. Tournaments paying less would get only two or three of the top 10 players. The accusation by MIPTC is that ProServ/IMG encourage their players to skip

some tournaments for the sake of exhibition matches. "Boris doesn't like exhibitions," Tiriac says. "I'd be even more severe (than MIPTC) and leave two months of the year free, so as to avoid what's happened to some top players, crumbling under the strain. It's time people realized that while sport may not be business, business does not kill sport. I'm no Coubertain but we must not kill sport."

The British have not even a game for the moment that they can call tennis. Tennis is half dead and actually declining in the numbers of those taking it up.

"The system and the coaching in Britain are wrong," Tiriac says. "Coaching is a thankless task with tournament players, 24 hours a day, having to know how the player will react or think tomorrow. The player himself doesn't know. And the coach is poorly paid for knowing himself."

The best systems, he thinks, are the Czechoslovak and the Swedish. The former is based on Communist-style mathemat-

ical principles: sending 200 players to local clubs, keeping the best 100 after a period of months, then the best 50, narrowing the field, discarding the failures, then starting again with a new younger batch the following year.

The Swedish style — the Gypsy system, he calls it — is to pack the bags of half a dozen kids, send them around the world with a manager and see who survives the stresses, mental and physical.

The British, he says, do not test character until it is too late and the players have become false. Established in senior play, The American system once successfully based on student development in the colleges, is now operating too late with players of 19 or 20.

Establishing Becker has been worth Tiriac's while. He takes a 25 per cent cut from Becker's commercial earnings other than prize-money, which are about to include \$4 million a year for six years from Puma for all his clothes and equipment. "I hope to do well with Boris," Tiriac says with a half-smile, looking more like Oddjob every moment.

SQUASH RACKETS

Williams's win sees Manchester Northern back in contention

By Colin McQuillan

Skol Leicester stretched their lead to seven points with a 4-1 win over Ardleigh Heath in the last American Express Premier League fixture of 1986, but the performance of the night was Geoff Williams's defeat of Ross Norman, the new world champion, to bring Manchester Northern back into the hunt for the second half of the season.

Williams trained himself almost to a standstill searching for a spectacular comeback from knee injuries, only to fall miserably both in the World Open and in the more recent National Championships. In his determination to achieve greater strength and power, the tall left-handed former national champion appeared unconsciously to sacrifice his natural fast and shot-filled game.

Leading Manchester Northern to 4-1 victory over Inter-City Cannon, Williams rediscovered the value of boasting from deep and cutting short. He met Norman normally lethargic mood and beat him 10-9, 7-9, 10-9, 9-1. Having contested the first two games tooth and nail, Williams unveiled in the fourth virtually every shot in his extensive repertoire, and hit target every time.

There is some resentment in the close-knit Manchester Northern camp at Inter-City Cannon, with a highly paid mercenary squad, last year usurped the League Championship that went to Manchester in

ATHLETICS

Cram wins AAA's prize again

Steve Cram was named the outstanding athlete of the year by the Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) — for the second year running yesterday — after his 800 and 1,500 metres double triumph at the Commonwealth Games, plus his 1,500 metres win at the European championships.

Cram, from Jarrow and Hebburn Athletic Club, won the C.N. Jackson Memorial Cup and Colin Jackson, of Cardiff, was named the AAA's junior athlete of 1986 for his winning performance in Athens of 13.44sec in the 110 metres hurdles at the world junior championship.

Jon Solly won two awards for his 100 metres winning run at the Kodak AAA championship at Crystal Palace. The Bingley Harriers is deemed the "best champion of the year", and his performance was considered the best on the track.

Linford Christie, the sprinter, from Thames Valley Harriers and the high jumper, Geoff Parsons, of London Athletic Club, shared the prizes indoors. Parsons's Philips Trophy follows his national record of 2.50 metres at the recent Assiniboia indoor championship. Christie won the award for the best overall athlete indoors, for winning the 200 metres European championship in Madrid.

OTHER AWARDS: M. Smeaton (Thames Valley Harriers), best junior 100 metres (10.9sec); best junior 200 metres (2.3sec); best junior 400 metres (1.15sec); best junior 800 metres (2.15sec); best junior 1,500 metres (4.15sec); best junior 500 metres (1.15sec); best junior 1,000 metres (2.45sec); best junior 2,000 metres (5.45sec); best junior 400 metres (1.15sec); best junior 800 metres (2.15sec); best junior 1,500 metres (4.15sec); best junior 500 metres (1.15sec); best junior 1,000 metres (2.45sec); best junior 2,000 metres (5.45sec).

NORDIC SKIING

Landlord pulls carpet from under British

By Michael Coleman

The six-man team that hoists Britain's flag in cross-country (Nordic) skiing will part company over Christmas, not for reasons of seasonal goodwill, but because their Austrian landlord needs his flats back.

Three will return to Britain and the others proceed at their own expense to Postresna, in the Swiss Engadine, hoping the snow has improved.

"The owner wants us out for two weeks over the holiday so we're splitting up," Patrick Winterton, the team captain, said from Schladming. "We expect to move back on January 7. At the moment we are trying to find somebody with an empty garage to take all our stuff."

Recourse to back of cash, the national squad this year has been cut back to five after what Winterton described as a "Swedish" selection process in Garmisch in late November; these are Winterton, Mark Westman, Karl Smith, Ewan McKenzie and Andy Wylie.

Since arriving in Austria, the squad has increased to six with the arrival of self-financed Jonathan Lines, who has lived and raced much of his life around Vancouver, but has a British passport. His form so far seems to justify his self-selection.

Two absentees from last year's team are Mike Dixon, who has transferred to the biathlon team which has its first outing at Hochfilzen in Austria on Saturday, and John Spivakov, a member of the biathlon team who has moved to Switzerland to train

FISHING

Decline is in size not in numbers

By Conrad Voss Bark

For some 10 years or more fishermen on the Hampshire Avon and the Dorset Stour have complained that the number of salmon in these rivers has been declining. For the past three years Wessex Water scientists, headed by Dr Wilkinson, divisional fishery officer at Poole, have been carrying out a survey to see if the complaints are true.

They have found that it is not a decline but a cyclical fluctuation. Catches did decline in the 1910s and 1920s and this was a widespread change common to all North Atlantic home waters, but this occurred after the high peak runs of the 1960s. The decline was, in fact, a return to pre-war levels.

Dr Wilkinson says: "Over a hundred-year period catches on the Hampshire Avon appear to show a definite cycle, high peaks in the 1880s to 1890s again in 1915 and 1933 and troughs in between. In the last year or so catches were relatively good. This year I believe they are very good."

There is, however, a decline in the size of salmon. The reason for this is not known.

The Wessex survey was carried out on four rivers, the Fiddle and Frome that flow into Poole, and the Stour and Avon that reach the sea at Christchurch. Copies of the report on migratory salmon, Price £3, can be obtained from the Fishery Department, Wessex Water, Passage Street, Bristol.

SPORT AND THE LAW

CCPR claims law gives clubs rights for total rate relief

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Sports clubs could win 100 per cent rate relief if they establish educational links and then fight the town halls and central government with existing legislation, says Edward Grayson, author of *Sport and the Law*.

Grayson, a barrister, points to the 1967 General Rate Act to secure 50 per cent of the mandatory rate relief and the remaining half from a 1981 House of Lords judgment which established charitable status for educational sporting trusts.

The information will prove of immense benefit to all sports clubs, who are struggling to survive because of the acute increase in rate demands. This particularly true of Scotland where rates are much higher than in the rest of Britain.

The Government is planning to harmonize rates in 1990 and there are widespread fears that this will be a levelling-up rather than a levelling-down.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), said yesterday: "We will draw the attention of all Britain's sports bodies to these legal details and explain what it means in layman's terms."

In his recommendation, Mr Grayson, a legal adviser to the CCPR, quotes Section 53 of the 1944 Education Act which states that it is a "duty of every local education authority to secure facilities for recreation and social and physical training." The Act remains in force.

He further says that a 50 per cent mandatory rate relief does exist for any club which has taken advantage of the House of Lords judgments in the FA Youth Trust Deed decision of Inland Revenue Commissioners versus McMullen (1981). This established charitable status for educational sporting trusts. Clubs may qualify for mandatory relief of 50 per cent under section 40 (1) of the Act, 1967.

This section operates where club premises can be lived in part to be occupied "wholly or mainly" for charitable purposes. This exists for clubs who structure their affairs and premises to provide the crucial coaching, teaching and training facilities to replace or supplement those for schools who cannot or will not make provision. Any sports club that does this can justifiably argue that the House of Lords charitable education ruling operates in their favour.

"The problem is," says Mr Grayson, "that hardly any clubs realize this. They could be saving themselves a lot of money each year."

In addition, this 50 per cent mandatory entitlement on educational charitable grounds would be a springboard for an additional 50 per cent discretionary claim under section 40 (5) (b). This specifies "education" in addition to identifying the charitable status and thereby permits 100 per cent relief.

"What we need now are a few clubs to take action, thereby encouraging others to do so. They are entitled to rate relief, but that they can win it," Mr Grayson says.

BOXING

Stiff warning to Boyde

The on-off comeback fight of David Pearce, the former British heavyweight champion, looked off again after warnings from John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, to Lorenzo Boyde, his American opponent, that he has taken his career in boxing too far.

Yesterday Boyde cancelled his flight from Chicago to Wales for tomorrow's bout at the Parc Club, Tredegar, Pearce's opponent, after a brain scan revealed a congenital abnormality. Walter,

his father and trainer, claims he has already sold 100 tickets for the fight and that he expects Boyde to arrive as arranged.

But Morris said: "Boyde won't be allowed to box under our rules and we would inform all commissions that he has taken his career in boxing too far with a man who does not meet the Board's medical standards."

Yesterday Pearce, Billy May, his manager, and Andrew Gerrard, another heavyweight, were in Tredegar, Pearce's opponent, after a brain scan revealed a congenital abnormality. Walter,

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Withdrawing grant without giving reasons

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Sherriff & Sons Ltd

Before Mr Justice Taylor

[Judgment December 15]

Before deciding to withdraw an undertaking to pay a grant for the provision of rail freight facilities under section 8 of the Railways Act 1974 (as amended by section 16 of the Transport Act 1978), the Secretary of State for Transport should have informed the applicant for grant of the reasons for withdrawing the undertaking and giving the applicant an opportunity of making representations.

Furthermore, the decision was unlawful in that it was based on a rule contained in paragraph 2.6 of the Department of Transport's "Memorandum of Explanation" which conferred the secretary of state's discretion to make grants under section 8 and was therefore ultra vires.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division, granting an application by Sherriff & Sons Ltd for judicial review *inter alia* to quash a decision of the secretary of state on November 28, 1984, to withdraw his undertaking dated November 1, 1983 to pay the applicants £250,000 grant under section 8.

Section 8 provides: "(1) Where it appears to the secretary of state that it would be in the interests of any locality... for facilities to be provided... for or in connection with the carriage of freight by rail or loading or unloading of freight carried or to be carried by rail, he may... make grants subject to and in accordance with this section towards the provision of such facilities."

"(2) Grants under this section shall be made towards expenditure of a capital nature which has been or is to be incurred in providing such facilities..."

"(3) Grants under this section shall be made in pursuance of an application made to the secretary of state by the person who is in the course of providing or intends to provide the facilities..."

Mr David Grace, QC and Mr Frederick Philpott for the applicants; Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Robert Jay for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the applicant, grain merchant, sought new premises for its expanding business and their proposed to provide facilities to enable them to change from road to rail freight transport.

They found a site and intended to finance the project from the sale of their existing premises, a bank loan and a grant under section 8.

At a meeting on the site between the applicants and a Department of Transport official, the official said that he looked as if he would be recommending a grant and that no recommendation of his had ever been turned down.

That led the applicants to take a more cavalier attitude to the paper work than they otherwise would have done.

The applicants submitted a grant application form which included a certificate (a) that the facilities would not be provided without grant and (b) that no contracts had been entered into and (c) that the project was not already in progress. In fact (b) and (c) varied from the facts.

On November 1, 1983 the department indicated that a grant would be paid subject to the condition that the applicants should submit audited claims for payment and should notify the department of alterations in the facts.

When the applicants subsequently applied for payment, the department asked to see the documents relating to the letting of contracts. The applicants sent a quotation for conversion works dated March 1983 and their acceptance.

The applicants received no further communication from the department until the decision to withdraw the grant. That decision was based, at least in part, on paragraph 2.6 of a handbook entitled of Memorandum of Explanation" issued by the Department of Transport which provided that as grants were an incentive to provide facilities, any commitment to a project for the provision of rail freight facilities in advance of a decision to make a grant would render the project ineligible for grant.

It was submitted for the applicants that the paragraph was couched in the terms of a rule rather than a policy and as such constituted an unlawful fetter on the secretary of state's discretion to make grants under section 8.

Although the first page of the booklet was headed "Memorandum of Explanation and Notes for Guidance" the following "Rules, conditions and precedents" were set out:

"The vital words in paragraph 2.6 were: 'will render a project ineligible for grant...'. These words admitted of no exception and gave no suggestion of any discretionary waiver."

Paragraph 2.6 constituted a rule and not a flexible policy and was a fetter on discretion and it was conceded on behalf of the secretary of state that if the paragraph constituted a rule, then it was ultra vires and unlawful.

Paragraph 2.6 affected the decision to withdraw grant. The department's practical approach was that if work had begun, it could not be satisfied that a grant was needed.

The unlawful fetter tainted the decision and on that ground alone the applicants were entitled to relief.

The applicants also submitted that the failure of the secretary of state to consult the applicants before making his decision was a breach of natural justice.

The present case was one in which the department should have put its case to the applicants and asked them if they had an answer to it before deciding whether the grant should be withdrawn.

If the applicants had been told that from the documents and events the department was considering a conclusion that no grant was needed, the applicants would have been able to put information forward which would have corrected that misconception.

Apart from the need to consult as a matter of natural justice, the department needed more information to enable it to reach an informed decision.

That ground of relief was also made out.

Solicitors: Ross Williams Wakefield & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

Regina v Oxford City Justices, Ex parte Berry

Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Russell

[Judgment December 5]

Judicial review would lie to quash a commitment to pay a grant for the provision of rail freight facilities under section 76(2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 into the circumstances of the obtaining of a confession from the defendant, although it would be rare that the court would quash on that ground alone.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application by John Andrew Berry for judicial review by way of an order of certiorari to quash his commitment for trial by the Oxford City Justices on February 11, 1986 on five charges of burglary.

Mr James Gibbons for the applicant; Mr Richard Jenkins for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that it was accepted on behalf of the applicant that prior to the coming into force of the 1984 Act if examining justices followed the procedure for committing proceedings prescribed by the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 and the Magistrates' Courts Rules (SI 1981 No 552), the Divisional Court would not interfere with a decision to withdraw grant. The department's practical approach was that if work had begun, it could not be satisfied that a grant was needed.

The unlawful fetter tainted the decision and on that ground alone the applicants were entitled to relief.

The applicants also submitted that the failure of the secretary of state to consult the applicants before making his decision was a breach of natural justice.

The present case was one in which the department should have put its case to the applicants and asked them if they had an answer to it before deciding whether the grant should be withdrawn.

If the applicants had been told that from the documents and events the department was considering a conclusion that no grant was needed, the applicants would have been able to put information forward which would have corrected that misconception.

Apart from the need to consult as a matter of natural justice, the department needed more information to enable it to reach an informed decision.

That ground of relief was also made out.

Solicitors: Ross Williams Wakefield & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

ence which might prove to be inadmissible and there was ample authority, it was accepted, that the Divisional Court would not interfere with a commitment by justices on that ground alone.

Nevertheless, on the authorities of (1879) 5 QBD 1, R v Marsham (11892) 1 QB 371, and remembering Lord Reid's classic dictum on the meaning of "jurisdiction" in *Anisminic Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission* (1969) 2 AC 147, 171, as a matter of law judicial review could go to quash a commitment in circumstances such as in the instant case, where the justices had refused to undertake the inquiry contemplated by section 76(2) of the 1984 Act.

Save to the exceptional case the Divisional Court should not quash any commitment on that ground alone.

Judicial review was a discretionary remedy and if it were allowed to go to the instant case his Lordship would "trench on the criminal practice of this country."

There was in any event sufficient evidence for the justices to commit the defendant on the fifth burglary charge.

Mr Justice Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Darby & Son, Oxford; Crown Prosecution Service, Abingdon.

SPORT

Time and not tide beat the British



HAROLD CUDMORE (left), skipper of the White Crusader, explains why the British yacht's challenge in the America's Cup failed.

Britain's White Crusader can be counted in the first division of world-class 12-metre yachts in spite of failing to qualify for the semi-finals of the America's Cup challenger series.

Our performance should be seen in the context of, at best, the great races against USA and New Zealand. Someone had to lose and in both these cases it was us - to USA by three seconds after three and a half hours and to New Zealand by six seconds.

Why? And why didn't we get through to the America's Cup itself and bring the trophy back to Britain?

We had a good yacht, good rig and sails, a good shore maintenance team and a good crew. I can vouch for all of these. Towards the end of the competition we were building up a unique sense of teamwork involving both the boat and the people handling her.

Given a little longer, we could have been in real contention at the end. Which is another way of saying that we started our campaign a little on the late side. The reason for that was, quite simply, funding. Although £5 million sounds a huge investment, and it is, it is less than the funds available to most of the other syndicates and was late in materializing.

Without the backing of Graham Walker we would never have put together a campaign at all and without the further support of our sponsors, White Horse, we could not have continued.

In the time scale allowed us two separate designs for our yachts was a bit adventurous and a longer time would also have benefited the crew by way of more and better experience to develop techniques.

As I said after losing to New Zealand in the last 100 metres, all we needed was a more refined programme. Whatever else we must not lose sight of what we achieved - because it is a major achievement - and be determined that our development will continue.

If we maintain continuity we will be strongly in contention at the next America's Cup in 1990 as well as all the major competitions along the way, including the 12-metre world championships taking place off Sardinia in June, 1987.

With one of the fastest-growing sports audiences world-wide, there is an active movement towards the establishment of a 12-metre grand prix circuit - similar to motor racing.

Of the four semi-finalists, I believe that New Zealand should beat French Kiss without enormous problems except, perhaps, in heavier weather when French Kiss is at her best. In the other match between the two very different American boats and skippers, Tom Blackaller - extroverted and mercurial - racing his extraordinary 12-metre USA with its bulb hunk on a very small plate and two full-depth rudders against the introverted Dennis Conner with his more conservative boat and long, tough, hard campaign, the result will be difficult to predict, but I believe that Conner will probably dominate unless

Blackaller can consistently grab the speed that is available in his boat.

The final of the challenger series between the clear winner to date, New Zealand, and the winner of the two Americans, will be much closer than perhaps results have indicated. The margins between New Zealand and the other challengers were reduced to almost nothing towards the end of the third round robin.

Whatever the result of the finals, I would still reckon that the challenger will be favourite to take the cup from Australia. The formidable campaigns mounted by the Australians will produce well-honed boats but whether their design has been sufficiently adventurous is open to question.

For the future, Britain must not be afraid to back its sailors, who are world class, and its designers, who have always had the ability and the technical innovation to give us winning boats. This group are worth backing and the commercial concerns that backers will see will be excited by the repayment in this fast-developing new "old" sport.

A divine right to keep winning

By Stuart Jones

Luton Town have perhaps found an answer to their prayers. They have acquired a new team member who did not cost them anything, is not paid anything and does not have a specific role to play but, in whose presence so far this season, the side has yet to lose.

As a secret weapon, no one could be more unlikely than Reverend Mervyn Terrett. He first stood on the terraces of Kenilworth Road at the age of eight and has been going back for "30 odd years." Now he has joined Luton in an official capacity. He has been appointed club chaplain.

He describes himself as "a worker priest. I still have Sunday duties but my full-time job is secretary of the Hertfordshire Society for the Blind. I've been to two-thirds of Luton's home games and they've not been beaten. Having me there is, I suppose, like seeing a man on a plane."

His position at Luton has no clear definition. A club spokesman suggested that he could, among other tasks, carry out wedding ceremonies. Reverend Terrett himself does not imagine that he will be preaching sermons, conducting services on the artificial surface or, indeed, praying for the grass to grow.

Always ready to lend an ear

"I want to act as a friend," he says, "somebody to talk to, whether it be a player, a member of the ground-staff or whoever. I won't be pushing my Christian beliefs on anybody but I plan just to be there to lend an ear should it be needed."

He will continue to act as "a match-day host", which led to his appointment. A couple of months ago the guest he was to entertain was Reverend Brian Rice, the only full-time chaplain to local government in the country. He also happens to be Hartlepool's chaplain.

Aware that visiting supporters are banned from Kenilworth Road, he wrote asking if he could go with his son to a game while he was on a course in the area. He also requested to be seated next to the club's religious representative. There was none. So Luton turned to Reverend Terrett.

"I had done one or two things for the club over the years," he explained. "I will be taking other guests there in the future. I'm going to invite my local bishop, from St Albans, to the West Ham game, for instance, because he's a fan of the Hammers."

Commentaries for the blind

"Four parties of blind people will be going to games in the new year. I've done a regular spot on local radio for a while so I will be able to do a commentary for them. Identifying Luton's players presents no problem but I may struggle with the opposition."

He mentioned that "less popular sides like Wimbledon and Coventry might be particularly difficult but you better not quote me on that." On a more serious note, he pointed out that only through Luton's membership scheme is he in turn able to carry out his own potentially awkward scheme.

"Escorting four loads of blind people won't be easy but I know there will be no bother. A year ago I would have been more than apprehensive about it. It is a different world these days. I see very young children taken there quite happily, there are no policemen and even the language has improved."

"It has been revolutionized. It is a shame that there are no away supporters but isn't it better to be able to go to a game and enjoy it? The atmosphere may be a bit quiet at Kenilworth Road but at least it is civilized." As a vicar's tea party?

Hollins thanks supporters

Chelsea's frustrated supporters were given a vote of thanks from the club's troubled manager John Hollins yesterday. Hollins, who has been the subject of angry demonstrations after recent home games, has praised his team's supporters.

"They have been excellent particularly on Sunday at Anfield where they certainly made themselves heard. Those are the true supporters who encourage the side even though things were not going well. That makes a big difference to me and the players and hopefully we will soon reward them with the sort of results that they are looking for."

Witherspoon's career in doubt after drug trace

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

World boxing was yesterday rocked by revelations in New York that former champion, Tim Witherspoon, had failed drug tests before and after his sensational first-round defeat by James "Bonecrusher" Smith in the World Boxing Association heavyweight title fight last Friday. The disclosure could end Witherspoon's career.

Jose Torres, chairman of a New York State Athletic Commission, said yesterday that pre- and post-fight tests on Witherspoon confirmed traces of marijuana in the ex-champion's system.

"This is a terrible blow for boxing, and very embarrassing for us," admitted Torres, a former light-heavyweight champion. "It could set things back ten years. We don't need

this kind of drug scandal in boxing."

Torres, who was at the ringside at Madison Square Garden when 31-year-old Smith, who stepped in at a week's notice after Witherspoon's original opponent, Tony Tubbs, had withdrawn with a shoulder injury, said yesterday: "When I saw Witherspoon at the weigh-in, I was stunned. He didn't appear to be in the best condition. He had breasts like a woman hanging down over his belly. He looked like a young fat boy, in no condition to fight."

Smith knocked the champion down three times in the first round to win the surprising victory. Witherspoon came into the ring a flabby 233½lb. Smith's victory enabled him to go on to meet the

unbeaten Mike Tyson next March for the unified heavyweight title.

This is not the first time Witherspoon has run into trouble with drugs. In Atlanta last January, when he out-pointed Tubbs to win the World Boxing Association title, drug tests also revealed marijuana in his system. At that time, the WBA fined him US\$25,000 (£17,500).

Torres noted: "The first time this happens, a fighter gets a warning and a fine. But now, the second time, well, this is a grave matter."

"Mr Witherspoon has been asked in a letter today to attend a commission hearing on December 29 when he will decide what steps to take. He

could have his boxing licence revoked."

Torres said the commission's own drug tests were confirmed by a second series of tests done by the New York Police Department.

Torres took the opportunity to say he was upset at the state of many of today's leading heavyweights who climb into the ring looking unfit and overweight.

"The heavyweight ranks are in a mess. I see too many boxers who don't take things seriously. Mike Tyson (the unbeaten heavyweight champion) seems to be the only boxer who trains for a fight these days. It is most embarrassing and gives boxing the kind of black eye that we don't need."



There were no gift-wrapped presents for Emily Boud (above) on the way to the British Women's Tennis Association's Christmas under-14 tournament final at Queens's club yesterday. The Gloucestershire girl beat Caroline Herbert, of Hertfordshire, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, but the third seed had to come from 2-5 down in the third set of her semi-final and bit her way out of trouble against another of Britain's promising young players.

Without a sponsor this year, the Lawn Tennis Association stepped in with financial support for the popular women's tournament, where Sally Timms, of Essex, the British hard-court junior champion, seeded No. 7, reached the final with a convincing victory over Amanda Grunfeld, of Lancashire, 6-2, 7-5. Miss Timms will meet Theresa Catlin, aged 17. The Cambridge girl eliminated Julie Salmon, the favourite from Sussex, the victim of influenza, who retired when trailing 6-7, 0-2. Miss Catlin, the eighth seed, outplayed Lisa Gould, of Essex, 6-1, 6-3.

(Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Rangers chief denies being Anglo-Scottish promoter

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

David Holmes, the chairman of Rangers, yesterday denied that he was the force behind a proposal to stage a tournament featuring the strongest clubs in England and Scotland. He also refused a suggestion that he would be discussing the idea today with Martin Edwards, the chief executive of Manchester United.

It is believed that the Anglo-Scottish event, an alternative to the British Cup, would begin in March and fill the dates in midweek that are usually reserved for European ties. Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and West Ham United would represent England; Aberdeen, Celtic, Rangers and Heart of Midlothian would carry the Scottish flag.

"I think it is a good idea but I must stress that I have not been promoting the plan," Holmes said. "But I would be willing to listen to an approach about the tournament as I believe the fans would like a competition like this."

Recent reports that UEFA are unlikely within the next couple of years to lift the European ban they imposed on English clubs last summer have concerned officials of leading English clubs. The cost of being kept out of the rich playing fields of the Continent is potentially substantial. To offset the loss, the bigger clubs have accepted invitations to travel abroad, whenever there is a gap in their schedule, to play in lucrative "friendly" fixtures, often in

the Middle East. Liverpool and Celtic, for instance, flew to Dubai last week to compete for the unofficial British title.

But the success of any plan to hold a money-spinning tournament within these shores would be heavily dependent on the weather, particularly now that the Scottish premier division is packed with 44 matches. Although postponements have so far been rare, the worst of the winter is to come.

Alex Smith, who has managed Stirling Albion for a decade, is the new manager of St Mirren and Jimmy Bone, a former St Mirren player, who managed Arbroath, is his No. 2. They replace Alex Miller, who recently left to join Hibernian.

No rise in misconduct says FA

The Football Association denied yesterday that misconduct had risen this season, although they conceded it had escalated in the last fortnight when 20 players were sent off. Eric Dinnie, the head of the FA's disciplinary department, said: "The disciplinary record this season is running neck and neck with last season, which, it is true, wasn't a good one for behaviour. But I would be surprised if any records are broken. Sendings-off were well down before last Saturday and cautions are running at about the same number as last season."

The disciplinary committee met yesterday to discuss the cases of Dennis, of Southampton, and Rougvié, of Chelsea, but will not be announcing their decisions until today. Dennis is charged with bringing the game into disrepute for a newspaper article in which he recounted a fracas involving himself and Peter Shilton. Rougvié was sent off on December 6 at Stamford Bridge for hitting John Fashanu, of Wimbledon.

Club seek to amend Cup rules

West Bromwich Albion are to propose a change in the rules of the FA Cup to avoid other clubs in the future being forced to stage unwanted ties. Having been ordered to host the Telford United v Leeds United third round match on Sunday, January 11, they are proposing that when a club feel unable to cope, the opposition should automatically have the right to stage the tie.

"Non-League clubs like Telford can have difficulty staging ties against any major League club," Syd Lucas, the West Bromwich chairman, said. "The rule ought to be uniform to deal with the situation. As it is we have been landed with a match we don't want because another club cannot ensure safe crowd control."

The Football Family Face, a working party formed to clean up football's image, is to compile a report on how to combat hooliganism for the Sports Minister Dick Tracy, and they intend to urge the Government not to implement an identity card system at every Football League ground.

The following Sunday matches will be televised live by ITV: January 18, Arsenal v Coventry (2.35); January 25, Nottingham Forest v Everton (2.35).

Mick Jones, the Halifax Town manager, will tell Peterborough United today whether or not he is joining them as team manager.

The Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Bailey has passed a crucial comeback test in his first competitive game for 10 months. Bailey showed no ill-effects from a knee injury in a 2-0 Central League win at Middlesbrough on Tuesday night.

Foulds is beaten

Neal Foulds, the No. 6 seed, was eliminated from the Tolly Ales English Championship in Bristol yesterday, beaten 6-3 by Ken Owens. Tony Knowles, seeded third, was beaten 6-2 by Les Dodd.

Botham chase

Derbyshire yesterday officially joined the chase to sign Ian Botham. The club's chief executive, Roger Pearman, confirmed a letter giving 14 days notice of approach to the player had been sent to Somerset.

Charles fined

Peter Charles, a member of the winning British Nations Cup team at Lieges in Belgium last August, has been fined £300 and disqualified from all events at that show following the positive drugs test made on his horse April Sun.

Brain scan

John Westgarth, the Newcastle-based heavyweight, has been ordered by the British Boxing Board of Control to have a brain scan, before he is allowed to fight again.

In the breach

Solent Stars wish to fill the gap left by Polycell Kingston's late withdrawal from the world invitation club basketball tournament at Crystal Palace on January 1 to 4 - if they can rearrange a national league fixture against Bolton on January 3. Solent would then meet Solna, from Sweden, in the first round.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Match switch

Darlington Football Club, still reeling from trouble caused by rival supporters at their game against Middlesbrough in November, have switched their second home derby of the season to a Sunday. The third division club have bowed to pressure from local businesses after hooligans caused chaos in the town centre before the Middlesbrough match when more than 100 people were arrested. Darlington will now play York on Sunday, January 11.

Canoeist dies

Paul McConky, a member of Britain's gold medal winning team in the world canoe championships three years ago, has died in a car accident.

Reserve out

Stockholm (AP) - Swedish tennis player, Kent Carlsson, refused to travel with the Swedish team as a reserve, to the Davis Cup final in Australia after a financial dispute with the Swedish Tennis Federation, newspapers said here yesterday.

Gilbody bout

Ray Gilbody, of Warrington, the British bantamweight champion, returns to the ring on February 19 in a title defence against Billy Hardy (Sunderland) at Sutton Sports Centre, St Helens.

Pyatt the best

Chris Pyatt, the European light welterweight champion from Leicester, has been voted "Best Young Boxer for 1986" by the Boxing Writers' Club.

Record in sight

The Commonwealth table tennis champion, Desmond Douglas, is one match from a career milestone. Victory over the former European champion, John Hilton, in the Schildkrot British League on Sunday would mean the former Birmingham bus driver, aged 31, is unbeaten in the League in one and a half seasons, an individual record.

Title defence

Andrzej Grubba, of Poland, holder of the Welsh Open men's singles title, will be defending his crown when the 1987 event is played at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff from April 1 to 4.

Flu threatens

Hull City's home league game against Millwall on Sunday, is threatened by an outbreak of influenza at Boothferry Park. So far five players and assistant manager, Dennis Booth, have been sent home, suffering from a virus.

Games cut

Seattle (AP) - The size of the 1990 Goodwill Games have been cut in half to make them different from the Olympic Games and to cut financial risks. A sponsor spokesman says the Soviets are happy with the change.

Ford transfer

The Wigan scrum half, Michael Ford, has asked for a transfer. Ford, who was regular scrum half two seasons ago recently lost his place to Shaun Edwards on the return to stand-off half of Ellery Hanley.

BADMINTON

England suffer whitewash

England suffered a disastrous day in the Marlboro World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, with seven defeats out of seven (Richard Eaton writes).

The biggest disappointment was the setback of the England No. 1 and Commonwealth champion, Steve Baddeley, who had harboured hopes of making the last four. He went down 18-13, 17-15 to Alan Budi Kusuma, of Indonesia.

Baddeley's rival, Darren Hall, the English national champion, was also beaten. But that was less surprising because he faced Morten Frost, the London-based all-England champion, from Denmark, who is trying to regain the title he won two years ago in the same Negara Stadium. Hall went down 15-3, 15-12.

There was another English singles defeat when Fiona Elliott, the former national champion, lost 11-1, 11-4 to Li Lingwei, the title-holder from China.

ENGLAND RESULTS: Men's singles: Alan Budi Kusuma (Indonesia) beat Steve Baddeley 18-13, 17-15; Morten Frost (Denmark) beat Darren Hall 15-3, 15-12; Women's singles: Li Lingwei (China) beat Fiona Elliott 11-1, 11-4; Men's doubles: Paul and Julian Sidek (Malaysia) beat Martin Daw and Derek Taylor 15-9, 15-4; Women's doubles: Hwang Hye-Young and Chung Myung-hee (South Korea) beat Helen Troke and Vera Berry 15-11, 15-8; Mixed doubles: Thomas Kihlström and Christine Magnusson (Sweden) beat Nigel Taylor and Gillian Gower 15-4, 15-11; Stefan Karlsson and Maria Bengtsson (Sweden) beat Andy Goode and Fiona Elliot 17-14, 15-4.

Cheshire Homes are all about caring... in so many ways.



Leonard Cheshire, Group Captain, Royal Air Force, VC, DSO, DFC

The residents in Leonard Cheshire Homes are very severely handicapped men, women and children suffering from a wide range of conditions. Sometimes unable to speak, or to move much more than a hand or foot.

A Cheshire Home offers them much more than just physical care. It gives them the dignity and freedom that is their right as individuals, the opportunity of friendship, a sense of purpose and a chance to participate.

There are 75 Cheshire Homes in the United Kingdom and a further 147 in 45 countries throughout the world. All of them have been made possible by the efforts of dedicated volunteers and by generous charitable donations.

We also reach out to elderly and disabled people living in their own homes, and to families with a handicapped member who may be struggling alone in isolation and despair. 19 Family Support Services in England provide vital part-time help at crucial times of the day - a lifeline indeed. But many many more services are needed to plug the yawning gaps in state provision. Only 2.37% of our income is spent on administering this large charity.

This means that almost all the money we receive goes in DIRECT help to those in need.

PLEASE HELP US TO GO ON CARING AND EXPANDING

To: Hon. Treasurer, Room B, The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 26-29 Mansel Street, London SW1P 2QN.

Please send me some information on covenants/legacies. Please send me more information. (please delete)

Name: Address:

Handwritten address in Arabic script.